02

story & art by

SATOSHI MIZUKAMI

YOUNG KING COMICS

02

スピリット

魂環

水上悟志

DAD!!

I LOVE YOU.

MR. VANN!!

VA...

DAD...

CIRCLE 8

...LONG...

IT WAS A LONG...

CIRCLE 8
STONA

水上悟志
SATOSHI MIZUKAMI

...JOUR-
NEY.

魂環 スピリットサークル

SPIRIT CIRCLE

DID YOU HAVE A NICE DREAM?!

GOOD MORNING, MASTER!!

IT SURE WAS A LONG ONE, THOUGH.

IT WAS A VERY...

I'M NOT SURE.

...VERY LONG JOURNEY.

MORNING, FUUTA.

HEY.

?

DAIKI, TETSU.

HEY.

YOUR EYES ARE RED. STAY UP ALL NIGHT?

WHY'D YOU HESI-TATE?

NO, I OVER-SLEPT AND WAS SPAC-ING OUT.

I GUESS WE'VE BEEN TO-GETHER FOR A WHILE NOW.

I MET THESE GUYS IN A PAST LIFE, TOO...

WILL WE STAY TOGETHER FROM HERE ON OUT?

I WON-DER-

NOTH-ING.

?

WHAT ARE YOU SMILING ABOUT?

...I'D BETTER BE CAREFUL AROUND LIQUOR.

?

がはは BWAH HA HA

HEH HEH HEH

AND DAIKI AND GLASS ARE NOTHING ALIKE.

AM I REALLY HERE?

NOT A SHOE-MAKER'S SON. I'M NOT A KNIGHT OR A MIDDLE-AGED DRUNK.

I'M OKEYA FUUTA, 14 YEAR-OLD MIDDLE SCHOO-LER.

THIS IS JAPAN IN THE 21TH CEN-TURY.

GOT IT?

IT FEELS STRANGE.

GOOD MORN-ING, RUNE.

EAST-SAN!! KOKO-CHAN!!

JUMP

GOOD MORN-ING!!

THE KNI-GHT.

I-I DID.

THE KNI-GHT'S...

DID YOU SEE YOUR PAST LIFE?

G-GOOD MORNING, ISHIGAMI-SAN.

THE KNIGHT WHO KILLED THE APOTHECARY MAKING A MEDICINE FOR THE VILLAGE'S EPIDEMIC?

SO...

HOW DID HE DIE?

WHAT...?

DON'T BE STUPID.

THE WITCH WAS MAKING THAT? BUT THE CHURCH SAID SHE WAS USING DEMONIC POWERS TO ABDUCT VILLAGERS

APOTHECARY? WHAT MEDICINE?

YOU CALLED ME A WITCH.

SHUT UP, VANN...!!

I'LL NEVER FORGET MY HATRED.

THE WITCH WHO CURSED YOU IS TRYING TO TARNISH A KNIGHT'S HONOR.

. BECAUSE THE LOCALS LOOKED TO ME FOR HELP OVER THE CHURCH.

THE CHURCH DIDN'T LIKE ME..

THE CHURCH, HUH?

THE CHURCH ASKED THE KING TO SUB-JUGATE THE WITCH... AND...

!!

CIELO ...?

GOOD MORNING, EVERY-ONE.

YOU DON'T LOOK WELL.

MAS-TER?

TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED TO THE VILLAGE...

..I TRIED TO SAVE.

AFTER SCHOOL.

NO WONDER HE AND DAIKI GET ALONG.

SENSEI'S KNOWN US A LONG TIME, TOO...

I'M SKIP-PING TODAY

OH, SORRY.

WHAT?

LET'S GO TO ART CLUB.

FUU-TA!!

I'M SORRY. I'LL PASS TODAY.

ISHIGAMI-SAN, ARE YOU COMING TO HISTORY CLUB TODAY?

WHAT?

HOW SUSPI-CIOUS

SUSPI-CIOUS!

..

I DON'T EVEN UNDER-STAND THE QUESTIONS.

I'M GETTING THE HANG OF THEM.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND QUIZ SHOWS?

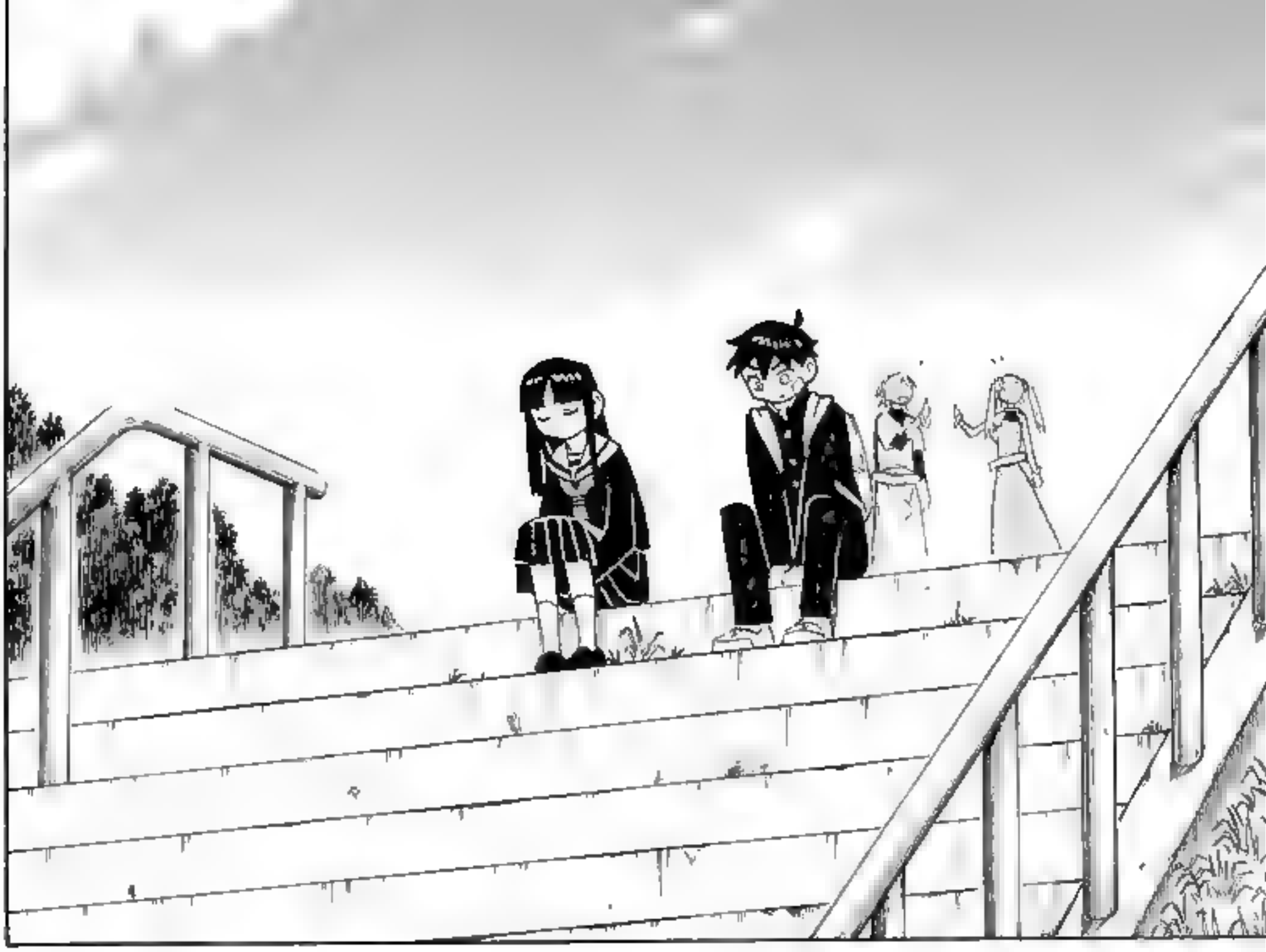
OH.

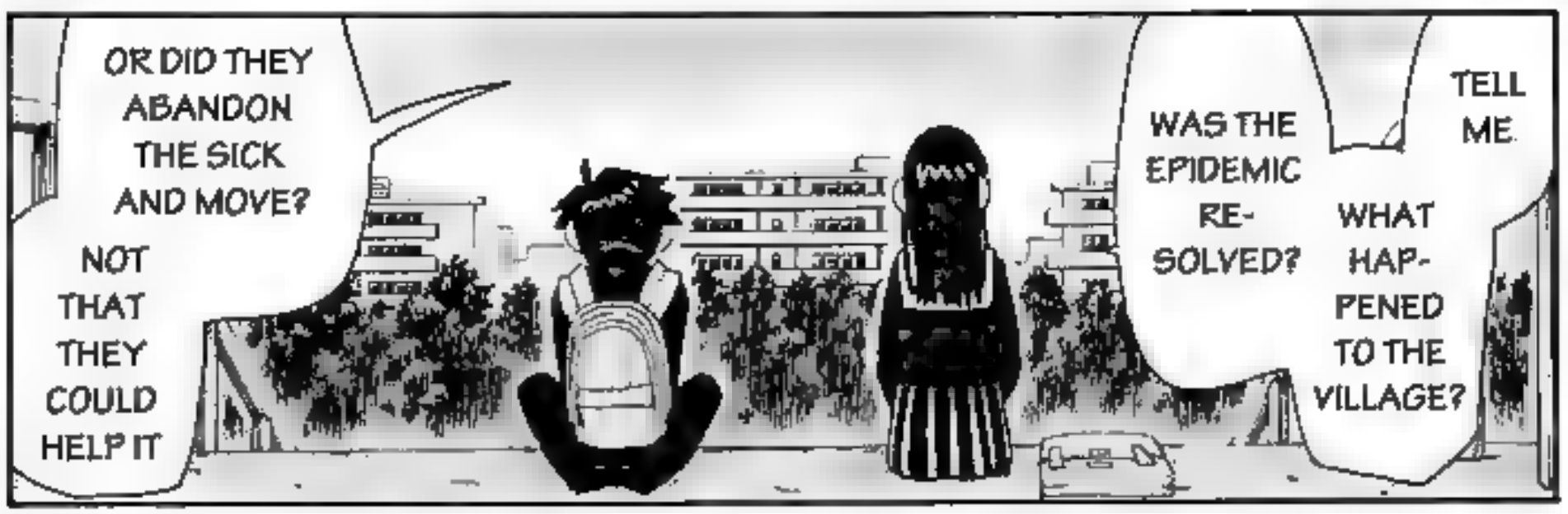
THEY'RE MAKING SMALL TALK...

REAL-LY?

DRAMAS ARE GOOD BECAUSE YOU CAN OBSERVE LOCAL CUSTOMS.

THOSE TWO GHOSTS




OR DID THEY ABANDON THE SICK AND MOVE?
NOT THAT THEY COULD HELP IT
WAS THE EPIDEMIC RE-SOLVED?
TELL ME.
WHAT HAP-PENED TO THE VILLAGE?

HEY
GUH
GRIND
EAT THESE WEEDS
THEY MIGHT MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER

YOU'RE PRETTY PALE.
RIP

I...

STOP THAT.
HEY
EAT UP
HERE.
I DON'T REMEMBER.
I HAVE TROUBLE REMEMBERING THE DETAILS.
YOUR KNOWLEDGE OF HERBS...
.TO THE VILLAGE?
WHAT HAPPENED...
PAFF
I DON'T KNOW...
VANN WASN'T.. TOLD ANYTHING.

AFTER WANDERING A WHILE, HE LIVED A LIFE OF DRUNKENNESS IN A REMOTE REGION.

ON TOP OF THAT, HE RESENTED ME AND BEGAN DRINKING WHAT A TERRIBLE MAN

I SEE.

HE DIDN'T KNOW

HE WAS CAST OUT BECAUSE OF THE WITCH'S CURSE..

AFTER HE KILLED THE WITCH, HE NEVER HAD AN AUDIENCE WITH THE KING.

...WORTH KILLING.

GOOD. IT'S PERFECT.

IT MAKES FORTUNA'S SOUL...

HOW MISERABLY DID HE LIVE, AND HOW MISERABLY DID HE DIE?

WHAT HAPPENED NEXT?

I ENJOYED MY LIFE.

.. BUT THEIR DRINKING KILLED BOTH OF THEM.

I WAS JUST AS DRUNK AND WHINY AS EVER, THOUGH.

I MADE FRIENDS. THEY WERE DAIKI AND TETSU'S PAST LIVES ASU-MA-SENSEI WAS THERE, TOO

I RAISED HER WITH THE HELP OF OTHERS.

IT WAS REI'S REINCAR-NATION.

JUST WHEN I THOUGHT I'D BE LONELY, I FOUND A BABY...

THEN AZUMA-SENSEI LEFT..

I'M SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU ..

HE WASN'T MISER-ABLE.

BUT VANN WAS HAPPY.

IN THE END I TRIPPED AND HIT MY HEAD AND DIED

BUT REI WAS WITH ME IN MY FINAL MOMENTS.

CRACK

OH.

WHUD

OW...

KOUKO, THAT WAS SORT OF MEAN.

I JUST

WHAT?

DON'T CALL ME SMALL!!

KOKO-CHAN, MY MASTER IS SMALL. PLEASE BE MORE GENTLE WITH HIM.

WH-WHY DID YOU KICK ME IN THE FACE..?!

I'M NOT VANN ANY-MORE...

RE-MEM-BER WHAT YOU DID.

..I'M NOT APOLO-GIZING

HUMPH..

ISHI-GAMI-SA... NO, STONA!!

IN THAT CASE...

...!!

...AND FORTUNA.

...AND VANN...

YOU'RE FONE...

YOU KILLED ME AND REI...

PLACING THE BLAME ON THOSE THEY HATED AND THEN KILLING THEM BECAME THE CUSTOM.

THEY CREATED THE ORACLES TO DO THEIR DIRTY WORK AND FORCED IT UPON US.

IT WAS THE VILLAGERS WHO DEMANDED A SACRIFICE.

DISASTERS, POOR HARVESTS, ILLNESS... THEY WANTED A SCAPEGOAT TO REMOVE THEIR ANXIETY AND DISCONTENT.

STONA ...?!

...?!

TO PREVENT THE WRETCHED MURDER OF THOSE THE VILLAGERS HATED...

.. WE CHOSE SACRIFICES AT RANDOM AND CALLED IT PROPHECY.

THE ORACLES ELEVATED THE SACRIFICES AS HOLY ONES AND TURNED IT INTO A GRAND RITUAL.

WE WANTED TO AT LEAST PROTECT THE HONOR OF THE DEAD.

...JUST HOW COWARDLY AND CUNNING THE VILLAGERS WERE!

THE ORACLES RECORDED IN THEIR HISTORY...

YOU SHOULD HAVE MADE THE HISTORY PUBLIC..

SO WE COULD CHANGE OUR WAYS TOGETHER!!

THEN YOU SHOULD HAVE STOPPED IT!!

THEN...

NO ONE FELT AT EASE..

...UNLESS SACRIFICES WERE KILLED AT THE ALTAR.

GET IT?

THE ORACLES WHO DID THAT..

..WERE ACCUSED OF BEING POS-SESSED BY DE-MONS..

..AND BURNED TO DEATH BY THE FAMILIES OF THE HOLY ONES.

IT SATISFIED THE VILLAGERS' BLOODLUST

THAT'S MEAN-ING.

IT DID HAVE MEANING.

EVEN THOUGH YOU KNEW IT WAS MEANING-LESS. ?!

THAT'S WHY ...YOU KEPT KILLING THEM?

YOU COULD SEE SPIRITS?

THE SPIRITS TOLD ME THE EARTH DIDN'T DEMAND BLOOD.

YOU WERE IGNORANT OF THE HISTORY AND THE SIGNIFI-CANCE OF THE RITUAL...

BUT WHY DID YOU INTERFERE WITH THE RITUAL?

I SEE...

...

...BE-COME FONE...?

..DID I JUST...

HUH?

THAT'S WHY SHE WAS ALLOWED TO SEE THE RECORDS.

IT'S FOR-TUNA'S INFLU-ENCE.

STONA COULD SEE SPIRITS BECAUSE OF HER PAST LIVES, TOO...

...

GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF.

MAS-TER.

...

STONA COULD SEE SPIRITS ..?

AFTER I... FONE DIED, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE VILLAGE...?

ISHI-GAMI-SAN... WHAT KIND OF LIFE DID STONA LEAD?

WE CAN BOTH SHARE WHAT HAPPENED "AFTERWARD."

.. VERY WELL. I'LL TELL YOU.

STONA...

. . .

HUFF HUFF

HUFF HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

HAS THE RITUAL BEEN COM-PLETED?

BUT THE SACRI-FICE...

HEY WHAT HAP-PENED?

WE WILL NOT NEED A RITUAL EIGHT YEARS FROM NOW!! THEIR BLOOD WILL PROTECT THE VILLAGE FOR 16 YEARS!!

...WITH THE LIFE OF THIS INTRUDER, WE WILL OFFER TWO SACRIFICES THIS YEAR!!

THE ONE WHO TRIED TO INTERRUPT THE RITUAL HAS BEEN PUNISHED!!

THE HOLY ONE'S HEART HAS BEEN OFFERED TO THE GODS!

WHAT WILL WE DO?

MAYBE THE RITUAL ISN'T COMPLETE..

SEEMS KIND OF ARBITRARY, DOESN'T IT?

IF AN INTRUDER'S LIFE WORKS, WHAT ABOUT THE HONOR OF THE HOLY ONES?

RE-DONE ...?!

THEY ARE NOT SATISFIED.

.. THE ELDERS HAVE DEMANDED THE RITUAL BE REDONE.

STO-NA UN-FORTU-NATELY

REDOING THE RITUAL WOULD MEAN DENYING THEIR DAUGHTER'S ROLE AS SACRIFICE.

THE HOLY ONE REI'S FAMILY AND THE ELDERS ARE DISAGREEING OVER THE MATTER.

WE MUST CHOOSE A NEW ONE.

BUT UNCLE, THE SACRI-FICE. .

WHAT ?!

NO...

HOWEVER, EVERY-ONE ELSE APPROVES OF REDOING THE RITUAL.

THEY'LL HAVE THEIR WAY.

. THERE IS GREAT HONOR AND REWARD BESTOWED ON THE HOLY ONE'S FAMILY.

THEY'RE AFTER THAT AS WELL.

THE RITUAL IS ENTER-TAINMENT FOR THE VILLAGE...

AND...

AS THE FAMILY OF ORACLES, ONLY YOU AND I KNOW THE HISTORY OF THE RITUAL.

THEY'RE ROTTEN TO THE CORE...!!

AND THERE ARE SOME WHO INSIST THAT YOUR DECISION TO ALLOW REI TO WEAR HER OWN SANDALS BROUGHT DISASTER, AND DEMAND YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY

...

...BUT OTHERS LOOK UPON YOU WITH ENVY.

YOU MAY THINK YOU'RE DOING THEIR DIRTY WORK...

EVERYONE BUT US VIEWS THE RITUAL AS GLORIOUS.

PER-HAPS HE KNEW WHAT HIS SON WOULD DO.

HMPH..

HIS ONLY FAMILY IS HIS FATHER FRIEU, AND HE'S MISSING.

SPEAKING OF RESPONSIBILITY WHAT HAPPENED TO THE INTRUDER, FONE'S, FAMILY?

IF THE VILLAGERS STILL AREN'T SATISFIED...

.. LET'S START WITH A CEREMONIAL CLEANSING WITHOUT A SACRIFICE.

THEY'RE SAYING THE INTRUDER SUCCEEDED BECAUSE OF OUR LACK OF AUTHORITY.

BECAUSE OF THAT, WE'RE EXPER-IENCING THE BRUNT OF THIS ISSUE OF RESPON-SIBILITY.

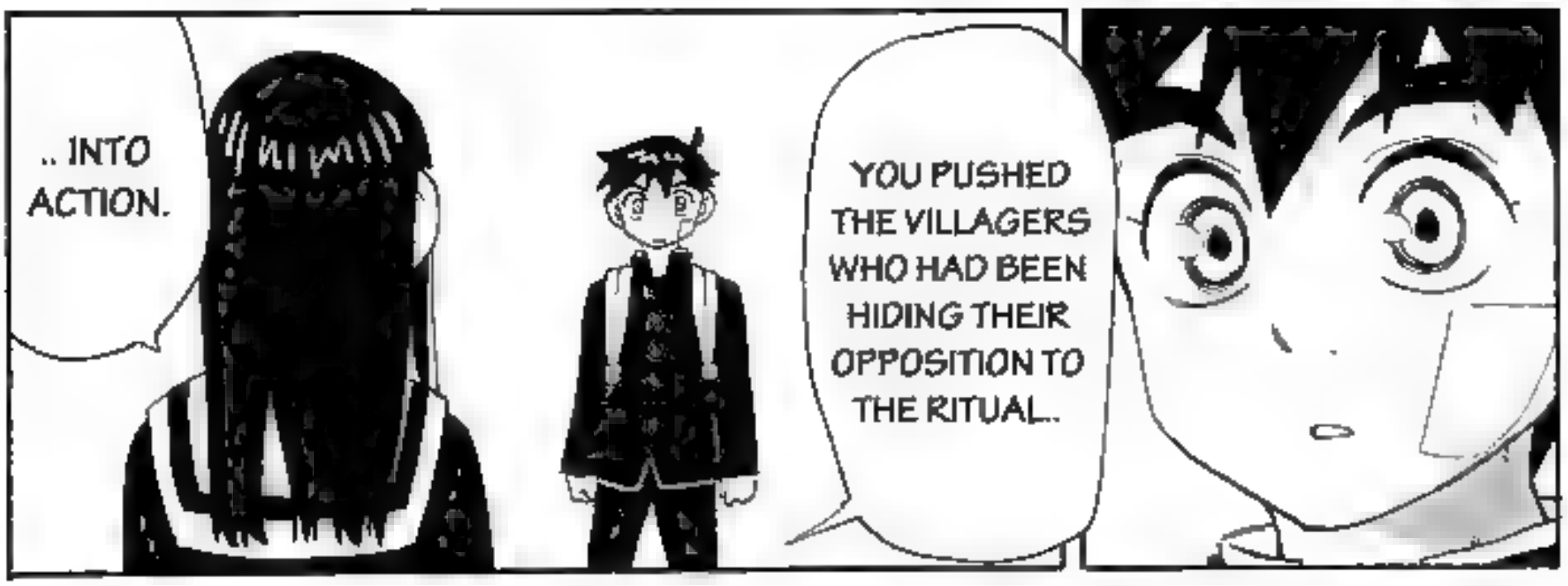
THERE IS NO REASON TO KILL SO MANY VILLAGERS AT ONCE.

...I WILL BE THE SACRIFICE.

YOUR ACTIONS PUSHED THEIR BACKS TO THE WALL.

CON-GRAT-ULA-TIONS, FONE.

BUT THE RITUAL NEVER HAPPENED.


.. INTO ACTION.
YOU PUSHED THE VILLAGERS WHO HAD BEEN HIDING THEIR OPPOSITION TO THE RITUAL..
THEY WON.
THEY GATHERED SYMPA-THIZERS..
..AND STARTED A REBELLION THAT SPLIT THE VILLAGE IN TWO.
...THE RITUAL WAS...
SO THEN...

BUT WITHOUT USING THE WATERS OF SLEEP WE PROVIDED TO EASE THE SUFFERING OF SACRIFICES

DEEMING THEM THE ROOT OF EVIL, THEY EXECUTED THEM

THE OPPOSITION CAPTURED AND KILLED ALL THE ELDERS AND ORACLES.

...AS THEY STABBED ME WITH KNIVES.

THEY LAUGHED AT ME...

"YOU SHOULD SUFFER AND DIE FOR CONTROLLING THE VILLAGE WITH THE BLOOD OF SACRIFICES."

AND.

.. YOU'LL LAUGH...

...TO LEARN THIS.

よ

3

...

WAVER...

SERVES HER RIGHT.

...TO THEIR GOD AND HERO, FONE.

THEY OFFERED THE BLOOD OF THEIR VICTIMS...

NOT IN THAT VILLAGE.

IN THE END, NOTHING HAD CHANGED.

SLUMP...

SEE YOU LATER.

STEP

...THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

...

NO.

...

NO.

CIRCLE 8/ FIN

スピリットサークル
魂環

SPIRIT CIRCLE

REI

CIRCLE 9
DREAM

DEATH TO THE ORACLES!!

NOW THE VILLAGE IS PEACEFUL!

STOP

UGH..

THE BLOOD OF THE ORACLES FOR OUR HERO FONE!!

STOP...!!

DAMN...

MAS-TER?

. IN OUR PAST LIVES AS FONE AND STONA...

I RAN A FEVER.

THE NIGHT I LEARNED THE FATE OF THE VILLAGE WHERE WE'D LIVED...

FONE SHOULDN'T HAVE KNOWN ABOUT IT, BUT FOR SOME REASON, I COULD SEE IT CLEARLY

EVERY TIME I CLOSED MY EYES, I SAW NIGHT-MARES.

MY FEVER LINGERED FOR TWO DAYS.

I WENT TO THE HOSPITAL, BUT THEY COULDN'T DETERMINE THE CAUSE

IT'S ALMOST LUNCH...

TUNK

MASTER.

YOUR FEVER ISN'T GOING DOWN.

I COULD SAY THE SAME THING.

YOU SURPRISED ME.

WHAT'S WRONG, MAS-TER?

WHUFF

WHOA!!

...

IT'S A POLICE DRAMA.

THE CORNERED CULPRIT IS ANGRY

OH.

DAMN IT!! I'M TAKING YOU ALL WITH ME!

SOME-TIMES I CAN TOUCH HER, SOME-TIMES I CAN'T

...WEIRD.

ROLL

OH.

WIFF

WIFF

WAh-TAH!! I WON'T LET YOU DO THIS!!

I-I'M THE CHINA COP!!

WE'LL RELEASE THE VILLAGE FROM THIS EVIL!

PUNISH THE EVILDOERS!!

STOP!!

WHUFF

BLOOD!!

STOP

STOP

BLOOD!!

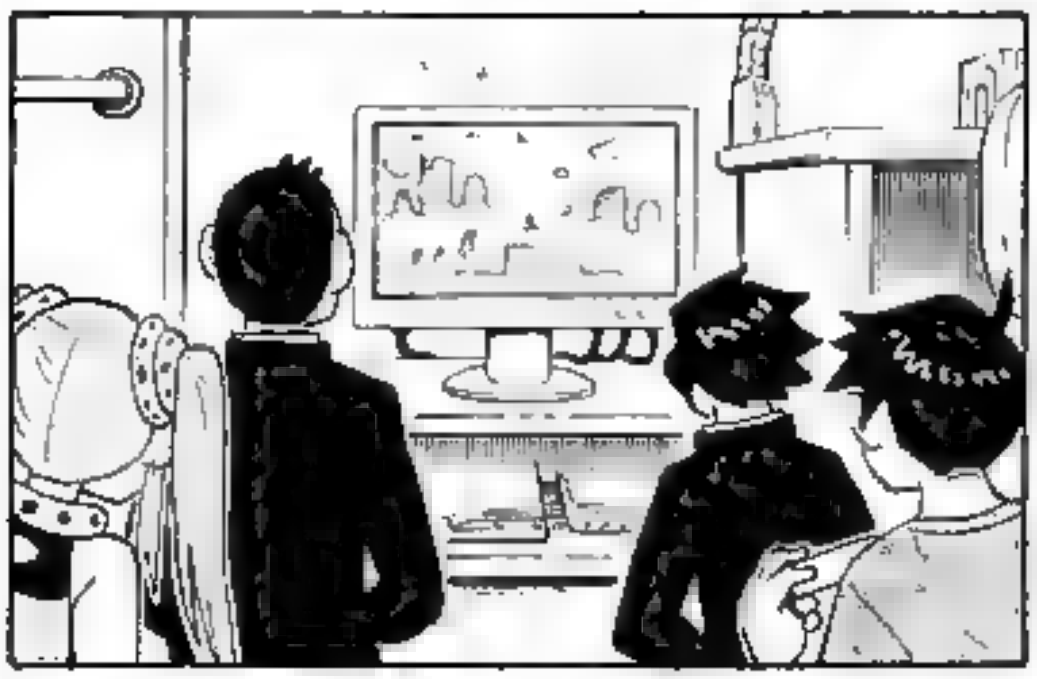
BLOOD!! IT'S NO USE. EVERY TIME I SLEEP

BLOOD!!

..W-
WEL-
COME.

WE'VE
BEEN
PLAYING
GAMES.
SORRY,
WERE
WE TOO
LOUD?

HEY
WE
CAME
TO SEE
YOU.



UMI AND NONO
ARE WORRIED,
TOO THINK YOU'LL
COME TO SCHOOL
TOMORROW?
I DON'T
KNOW

SEE YOU LATER.

SLAM

THEY JUST CAME TO PLAY GAMES.

GET WELL SOON.

LATER.

GET IT TOGETHER!! SOME LIQUOR WILL MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!

HEY, HOW ARE YOU FEELING TODAY?

..?

CLUNK

WHUD

WHUD

WHUD

FUUTA, I MADE SOME PORRIDGE. CAN YOU EAT?

..?

WHO'S FUUTA ...?

GIVE ME SOME OF THAT

..I'M MAKING SOME-THING WARM NOW

MR. VANN...

WHO ARE YOU TELLING TO SHUT UP?

SHUT UP...

IT'S NOT FOR YOU.

THANKS FOR THE FOOD.

CLINK

I HOPE YOUR FEVER COMES DOWN SOON.

I'D BETTER GET IT TO-GETHER.

"WHO'S FUUTA," INDEED!

THERE ARE FARMERS THERE, HUH?

REAL-LY?

STIHL AND GLASS GOT SOME VEGETABLES AND EGGS FOR YOU FROM FARMERS OUTSIDE THE TOWN.

MASTER, CAN YOU CHANGE THE CHANNEL?

HEY WHAT'S THAT MEAN, CIELO?

YOU COULD JUST SAY THANK YOU

THERE ARE FARMERS EVERY-WHERE.

THAT'S WHAT IM-PRESSED YOU?

THEY BETTER PITCH IN!

HMPH.

COUPLE OF FREE-LOADERS

THE THIRD DAY.

I FELT A LITTLE BETTER

AFTER DA KI AND TETSU'S VISIT, MY DREAMS CHANGED.

TA-DAH

I'LL ARREST YOU WITH MY FISTICUFFS. I'M CHINA COP

OH. FROM THE DRAMA.

WHY ARE YOU WEARING A CHINA DRESS..?

MORE COS-PLAY?

MUST BE CONVENIENT BEING A GHOST

AND SINGING VANN'S SONG.

...

YOU WERE WEARING REI'S CLOTHES THE OTHER DAY.

...DO YOU KNOW?

HOW MUCH..

YES?

RUNE.

SWISH

...YOU CAN SEE INSIDE MY HEAD?

BRAINS ARE THE RECEIVER OF CONSCIOUSNESS.

NOT INSIDE YOUR HEAD.

WERE THEY SIGNIFICANT?

IF YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE CLOTHES AND SONG, I PICKED THOSE UP IN YOUR SUBCONSCIOUS.

WHAT?

SELF? DIMENSION?

WHY ARE YOU LEANING TOWARDS ME?

LEAN

THERE WAS SOME INFORMATION ON THE SURFACE OF THE DIMENSIONAL BOUNDARY WHERE THE SOURCE OF YOUR SELF IS FLOATING, SO I SCOOPED IT UP.

OH.

TOMORROW'S SATURDAY IT'D BE A WASTE IF I DIDN'T GET BETTER...

WOW, HE ARRESTED FIVE PEOPLE!! HE'S SO STRONG.

I DON'T GET IT, BUT SHE SEEMS TO BE SEEING SOME PART OF ME.

I CAN'T LET MY GUARD DOWN...

..?

REALLY

THERE ARE INFORMATION LOCKS ON THINGS YOU DON'T WANT PEOPLE TO KNOW, SO DON'T WORRY.

CRAMPED PANEL

REI..

FATHER.

MASTER CIELO IS A GOOD PERSON, BUT I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN MARRY HIM.

HA HA HA.

I DECIDED TO LIVE IN THIS VILLAGE.

I MADE FRIENDS WITH THESE GIRLS.

WHUFF

AND THAT'S UMI AND NONO!!

I'M NOT DEAD YET!!

REST IN PEACE.

I'LL BE FINE, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT ME.

UMI, NOT HIS RIGHT HAND. HE'S IN THE ART CLUB.

AHHH.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING? WE CAME TO SEE YOU.

OWWW I'M SORRY, I'M SORRY.

WHAT SORT OF DREAM?

WHAT? WERE YOU DREAMING ABOUT US?

OUCH.

I CHAN-GED.

NO.

I KNOW YOU DID THAT

HEY

YOU CHAN-GED THE SUB-JECT

NOTH-ING, UM.

WHY ISN'T NONO IN HER UNI-FORM?

HUH?

WHAT?

DID SOME-THING HAPPEN BETWEEN YOU AND KOKO?

ANYWAY, FUUTA.

HEH HEH HEH

BY THE WAY, KOKO'S BEEN HEALTHY ENOUGH TO COME TO SCHOOL

I'M SURE SHE IS

MAYBE YOU'RE RESTING BECAUSE KOKO REJECTED YOU

NO!

YOU HAVEN'T BEEN TO SCHOOL SINCE THE DAY YOU WENT HOME TOGETHER...

SLAM

GO FOR IT, NONO.

HUH? UMI?

COME TO SCHOOL MONDAY, FUUTA.

OKAY.

WELL, I HAVE TO MAKE DINNER FOR MY BROTHER. I'M LEAVING.

...

..

THIS IS KIND OF BITTER-SWEET.

SHUT UP

WHAT IS?

THIS IS AW-KWARD...

OH ..

SO, WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH KOKO-CHAN?

UH, UM. .

WE'RE BACK TO THIS.

N-NOTH-ING.

HER HAIR-STYLE'S ALWAYS DIFFERENT, BUT IT'S ALWAYS CUTE.

SLAM

LATER.

I-I'M LEAVING, TOO. YOU CAN BORROW MY NOTES.

THANKS.

UH... O-OKAY

YEAH.

HUH. GOING TO SLEEP AGAIN?

IT'S NOT A COINCI-DENCE.

..HEY

WHAT'S THE PROBABILITY OF RUNNING INTO SOMEONE FROM MY PAST LIVES?

CONNEC-TIONS...

IT HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.

THOSE ARE CONNEC-TIONS.

YOU'RE INVOLVED WITH THE PEOPLE YOU KNOW BOTH IN THE PAST AND THE FUTURE.

TEEE

FWOOM

WE MEET AND PART WAYS, PART WAYS AND THEN MEET

FWOOM

TEEE

CONNEC-TIONS CIRCLES CIRCULAR RELATION-SHIPS

KEEN

THE SPIRIT CIRCLE...

FWOOM

FWOOM

KEEN

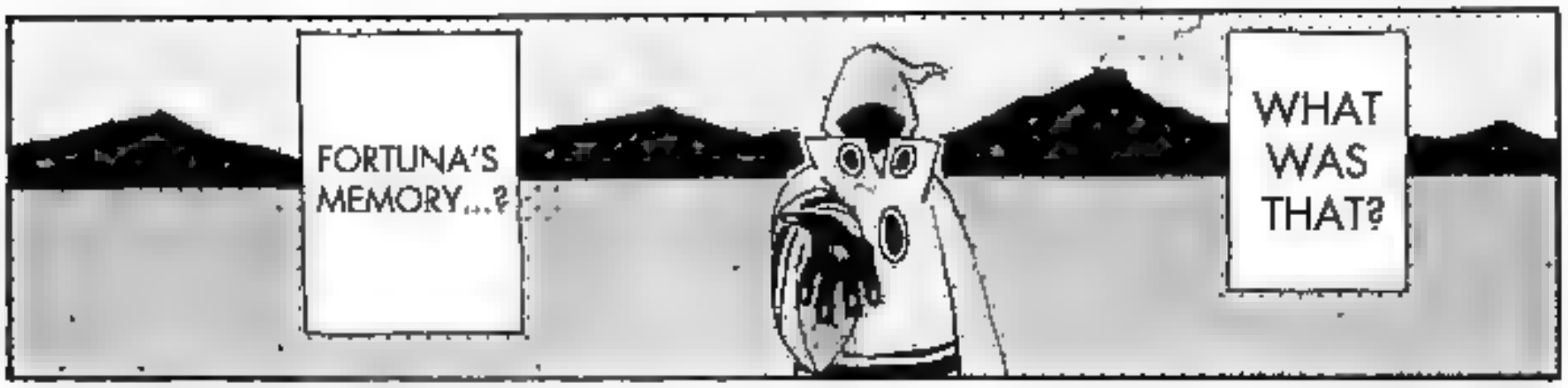
FWOOM

FWOOM

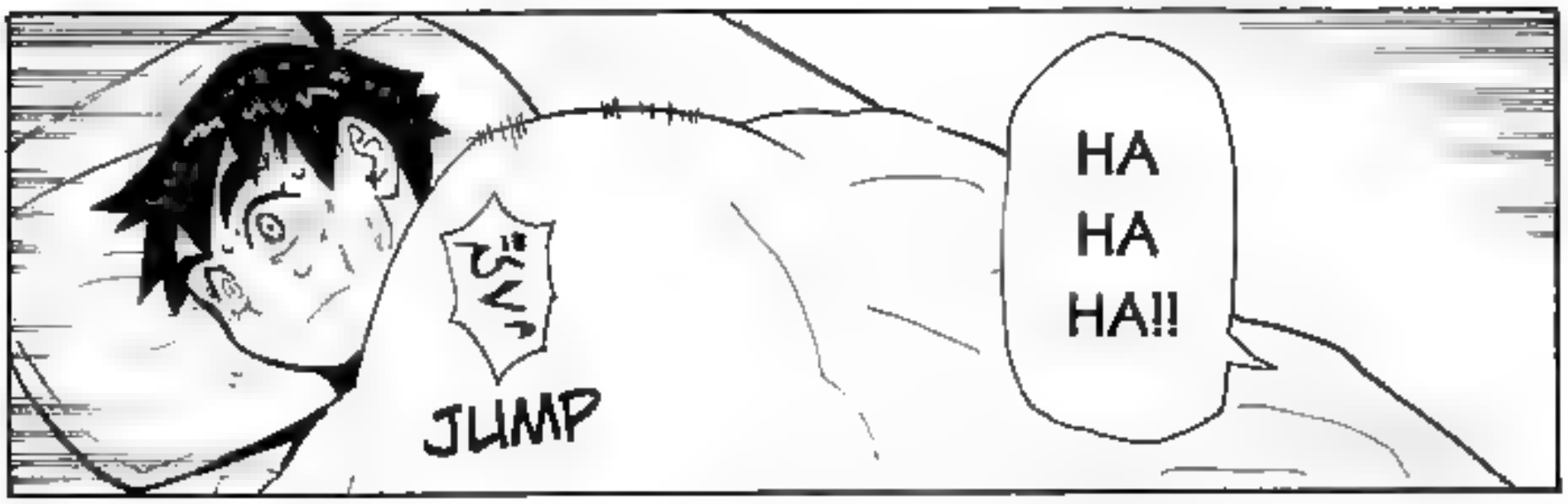
YOU ARE NOT READY FOR IT.

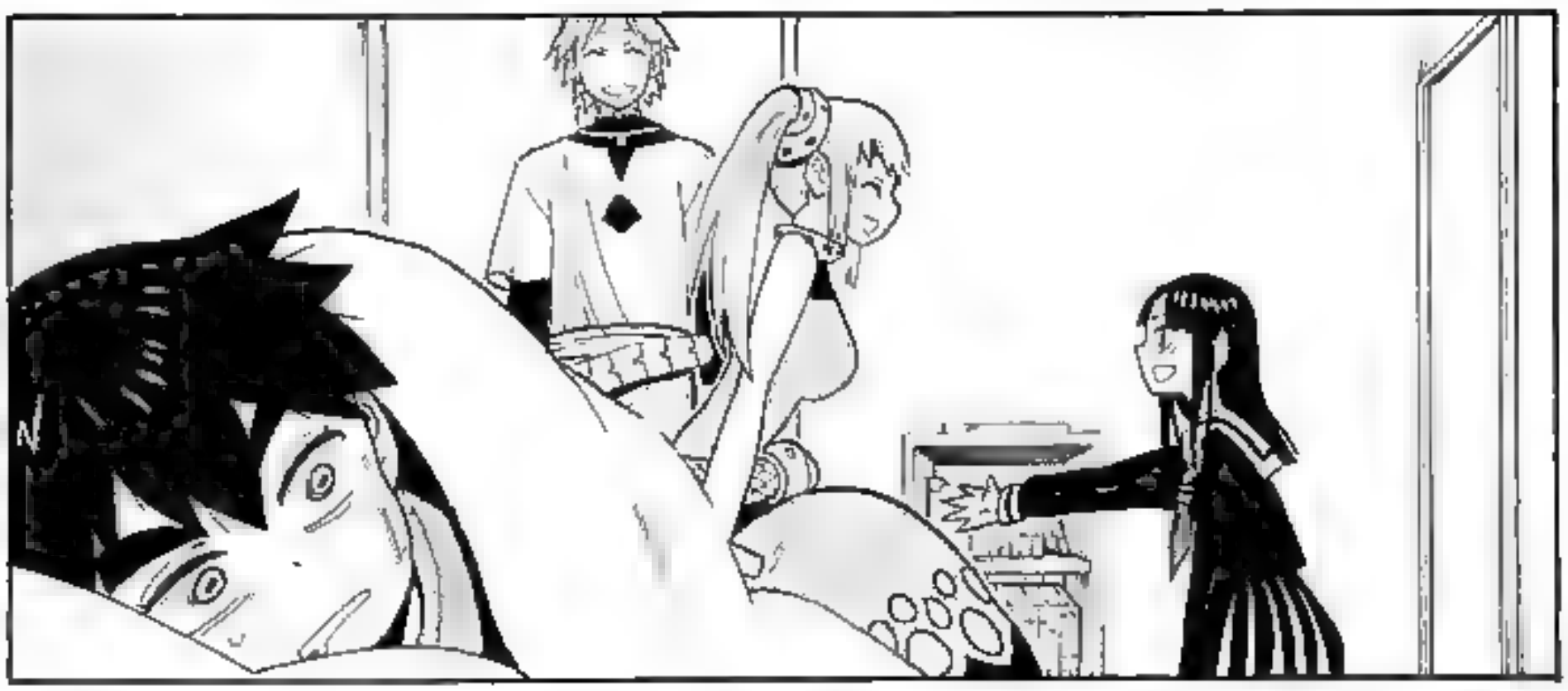
GIVE ME YOUR RING.

I AM SPACI-FICA.

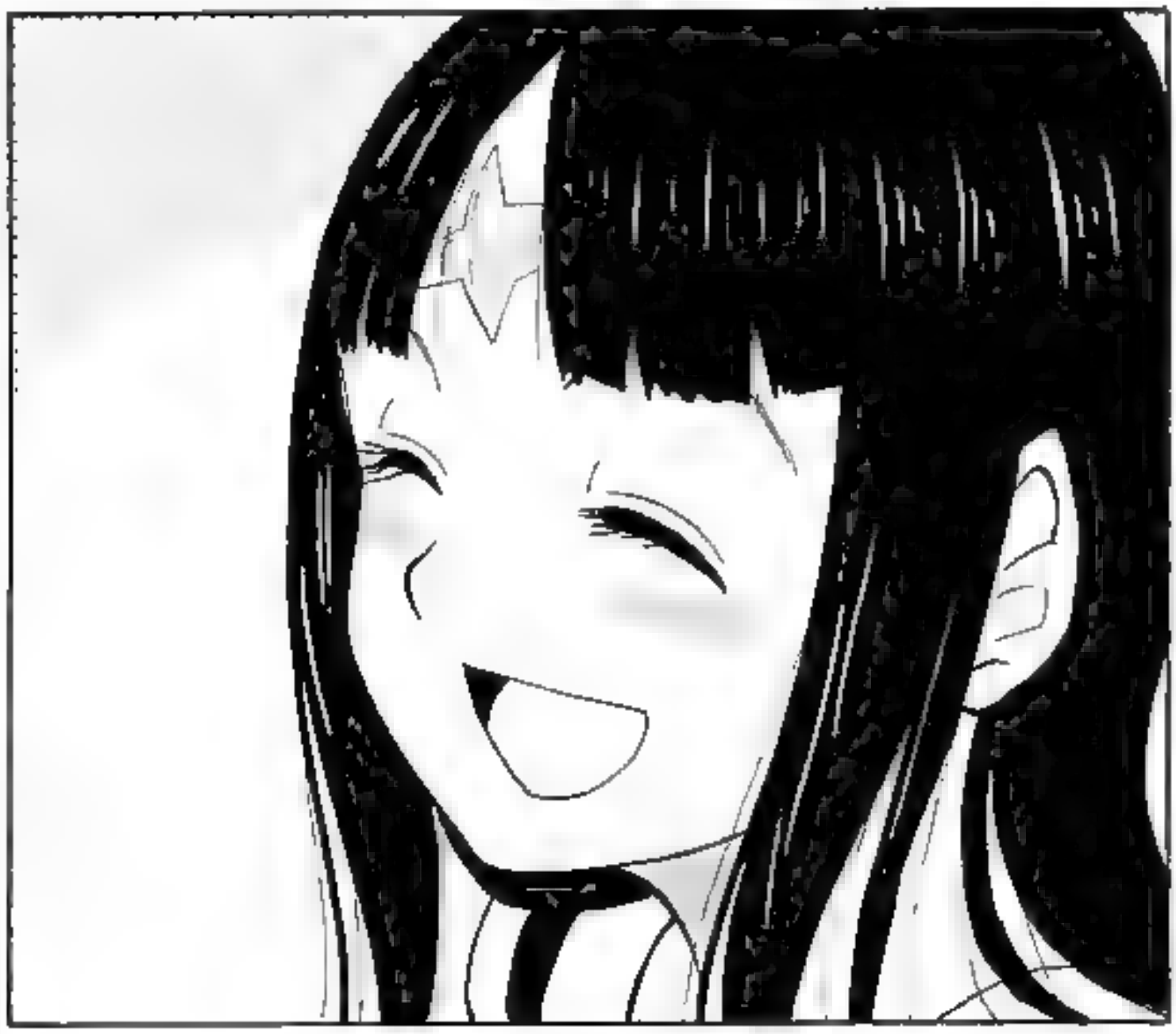


YOU
ARE NOT
READY
FOR IT.


JUMP
HA
HA
HA!!



ISH—
ISHI-
GAMI-
SAN
...?!



URK

WHAM

I JUST WOKE--

THROW

SAY SOMETHING IF YOU'RE AWAKE!!

OH

MASTER, KOKO-CHAN CAME TO SEE YOU.

SQUISH

SHUT UP!!

KOUKO, FUUTA-KUN IS SICK.

I KNOW YOU'RE EMBARRASSED THAT HE SAW YOUR DEFENSE-LESS SMILE, BUT--

BAM

4

1

3

2

HOW DO YOU KNOW WHERE I LIVE?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

AND YOU'RE DEFINITELY NOT JUST HERE TO SEE ME.

...OH.

...

HEY, HEY, HEY.

WAIT—

WHY . ?!

WHAM

I BET YOU CAME TO FINISH--

I CAME TO SEE YOU, MORON!!

YOU SEEM HEALTHY ENOUGH.

ROLL ROLL

THE WAY YOU'RE WRITHING IN AGONY

YOU KICKED ME AGAIN!!

ARGHHH

I TOLD YOU ALL THAT BECAUSE I NEVER THOUGHT YOU'D BE SO SHOCKED YOU'D BE BEDRIDDEN FOR DAYS...

..OVER THE FATE OF STONA AND FONE'S VILLAGE.

I SHOULDN'T HAVE WORRIED ABOUT YOU

IF YOU WERE WORRIED, DON'T KICK ME IN THE FACE!!

WHUFF

WHOA!

SLIP

RGGGH

OH.

WHY DO YOU ALWAYS...

I DIDN'T SEE ANY-THING

I...

SHUFF

OUCH.

AH!!

YOU TWO!!

YOU SAID, "OH."

YOU WERE LOOKING.

LIAR, YOU WERE LOOKING.

GLARE

QUIVER

QUIVER

QUIVER

...

WHAAAT?!

WAAAAH.

WAAAH

M-MOM, THIS ISN'T--

FUUTA, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

YOU MADE HER CRY.

UNBELIEVABLY, MY FEVER HAD GONE DOWN

AT SOME POINT.

CIRCLE 9/ FIN

スピリットサークル
魂環

SPIRIT CIRCLE

TETSU

CIRCLE 10
FLORS 1

...

FINE. YOU DON'T NEED TO APOLOGIZE ANYMORE.

HMPH

I'M SORRY I SAW YOUR PANTIES.

I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D BE SO SHOCKED TO LEARN OF THE VILLAGE'S FATE YOU'D BE BEDRIDDEN...

I JUST TOLD YOU.

I'LL KILL YOU EVENTUALLY ANYWAY

OH, REALLY... THEN WHY DID YOU COME TO SEE ME?

WELL, YEAH...

NO.

BUT YOU'LL KILL ME EVENTUALLY, RIGHT?

...?

OH.

YOU DIDN'T WANT ANY-THING TO [redacted] BEFORE YOU COULD KILL ME YOURSELF

...

WHAT?

ARE YOU STUPID?

YOU CAN KILL ME IN A GAME.

WANT TO PLAY A GAME?

RUSTLE

...

...

...DAD-DY?

AH!

FINE.

I STILL HAVE SOME TIME BEFORE DADDY PICKS ME UP, SO I'LL PLAY.

OH. WHAT GAME DO YOU WANT TO PLAY?

I DIDN'T HEAR ANY-THING.

NOTH-ING, NOTH-ING.

IF ONLY WE COULD TOUCH THE CON-TROLLERS, TOO...

THAT LOOKS FUN.

HM-PH!

HM-PH!

TAKE THIS!

I CAN'T WIN!

CRASH

DON'T THROW THAT!!

SHIGARAKI VS MUTEKI

K.O

BANG

DEAD

SHOULD WE PLAY A DIF-FERENT GAME?

BUT I STILL GET TO FIGHT BACK.

YOU SAID I COULD KILL YOU!

GAME OVER

WIN

SIGH

SHOULD WE STOP?

LET'S KEEP PLAY-ING.

WHAT A SHIT GAME!!

CRASH

DON'T THROW THAT!!

...

NOTH-ING.

WHY? NOT MORE THAN ANY-ONE ELSE

?

OKEYA-KUN. ARE YOU CLOSE WITH YOUR PARENTS?

BOOM

OH.

...?

WVMM WM

JGH.

WAIT, WAIT, WAIT!

DON'T!

YOUR DA...

GLARE

YOUR FATHER?

HELLO?

YEAH, I'M NEARBY.

I'LL WALK YOU OUT.

THANK YOU FOR HAVING US

I FEEL GREAT.

NO.

THAT'S OKAY

I'M ALL BETTER

HE'S DONE WITH WORK, AND HE'S OUTSIDE THE APARTMENT

WE'RE LEAVING, EAST.

YES.

..FOR COMING TODAY

THANKS...

HMPH.

DA—

FATHER, THANK YOU.

KOKO.

...

THANKS

O-OKAY

I HOPE YOU'LL BE NICE TO HER AT SCHOOL, TOO

THANK YOU FOR PLAYING WITH MY DAUGHTER.

TEN HUT

VROOM

I WON'T LOSE NEXT TIME!!

HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE BOY.

KOKO

I JUST IMPLIED WE SHOULD HANG OUT AGAIN.

AH.

YEAH.

THAT MUST MEAN SHE WANTS TO HANG OUT AGAIN.

HOW NICE FOR YOU!

WHEN VANN WAS A KNIGHT...
.THAT MAN... ISHIGAMI-SAN'S FATHER...
...

WHY DO I KEEP MEETING PEOPLE I MET IN THE PAST...?
ISHIGAMI-SAN, TETSU, AND DAIKI.

I FEEL LIKE I'M LOOKING AT SOME-THING DIRTY.
MORE COSPLAY... MY SCHOOL'S UNIFORM?
WHY NOW?
CONNECTIONS. I JUST ASKED THAT EARLIER.

IT'S NOT THAT UNUSUAL.
THERE.
I TOLD YOU, THAT'S WHAT CONNECTIONS ARE.
POOF!!

THAT'S RIGHT JUST NOW.

I THINK ISHIGAMI-SAN'S CIRCLE HAD AN EXTRA FLAME..

CONNEC-TIONS. RINGS... CIRCLES. ?

...!!

...

ROAR

..HAS ANOTHER FLAME, TOO...!!

MY CIRCLE..

GIVE ME YOUR RING.

I AM SPACIFICA.

...!!

SPASPA? I DON'T KNOW

DO YOU KNOW SPACIFICA? RUNE.

FLAP FLAP

I FEEL LIKE I SHOULDN'T FORGET THAT...!!

WAS THAT THE GUY I SAW IN MY DREAM. ?!

AND THAT COSPLAY... WHAT... WHAT IS THIS FEELING?

IT'S ALL FOGGY

SHE DOESN'T KNOW HIM.. SHE DOESN'T REMEMBER.

DOES THAT MEAN ISHIGAMI-SAN HAS SEEN HER PAST LIVES RECENTLY, TOO?

I THINK I HAVE TWO FLAMES NOW BECAUSE I WITNESSED VANN'S LIFE.

APPREN-TICE IN WHAT, ANYWAY?

WHAT ABOUT EAST? HE'S FORTUNA'S APPRENTICE...

DOES ISHIGAMI-SAN KNOW ABOUT SPACIFICA?

THEY DON'T ACT WEIRD TO-WARDS ME...

DID THEY HAVE A FALLING OUT WITH FORTUNA, TOO?

.. NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, ISHIGAMI-SAN ONLY DISLIKES FORTUNA. SHE GETS ALONG WITH RUNE AND EAST

JUST WHO IS FORTU-NA...?

ISHIGAMI-SAN SAID FONE COULD SEE SPIRITS BECAUSE OF FORTUNA'S INFLUENCE.

DID YOUR FEVER COME BACK?

STAY AWAY

I'M FINE.

I'M OKAY

IT'S OKAY

WHOA.

MASTER, YOUR FACE IS RED!

SMOKE SMOKE

'M SICK OF TH NKING

IT'S NO USE

I DON'T KNOW

...

SO HOW COME I'M STUPID?

FORTUNA SEEMS SMART.

THAT'S ALL I NEED TO KNOW...!!

EVERY-THING STARTED WITH FORTU-NA.

THERE

...I DON'T MIND BE NG STUPID

POOF

...

?

WHOA.

WHUFF

SHAKA SHAKA

SHUFFLE SHUFFLE

MAS-TER?

...

OKAY

I'M GOING TO SEE FORTUNA'S PAST LIFE.

RIGHT NOW.

CLICK

YOU'RE GOING TO SLEEP?

YEAH

MAST--

DON'T WAKE ME.

HUH?!

BOOM

HGK ..!

ROAR

ROAR

FORTU-
NA!!

SHOW
ME,
SPIRT
CIRCLE...

SHOW
THE
BEGIN-
NING!!

ROAR

I'LL
LEARN
WHAT'S
IMPOR-
TANT

. .AND
END
THIS
TODAY.

ROAR

I DON'T
HAVE
TIME TO
EXPER-
IENCE
SEVEN
LIVES.

ROAR

HUH?!

WHAT?!

WAIT, WAIT!

IT'S TOO SOON.

WHO IS SPACI-FICA?!

WAIT--

JUST--

JUST ONE THING!!

DON'T YOU KNOW?

WHAT?

BUT HOW...

AT ?!

WH WHAAA?!

...THE HELL SHOULD I KNOW!!

HM?

...

WHAT?

HUH?

I CAN SEE THE HARBOR!

YOU'RE REPRESENT-ING THE MASTER THIS TIME.

YOUR CLIENT SHOULD BE MEETING YOU AT THE HARBOR, SO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER.

ER..

YES

THERE YOU ARE!! IS YOUR SEASICK-NESS GONE?

MR. FLOR!!

ぴょん JUMP

RIGHT

!

STEP STEP

COME ON.

ACT MORE DISTIN-GUISHED.

I'LL DO MY BEST

I...

THE GIRL AND HER SERVANT ARE MORE COMPOSED THAN YOU.

LOOK.

IT'S BEEN A LONG JOURNEY

WE'RE FINALLY HERE.

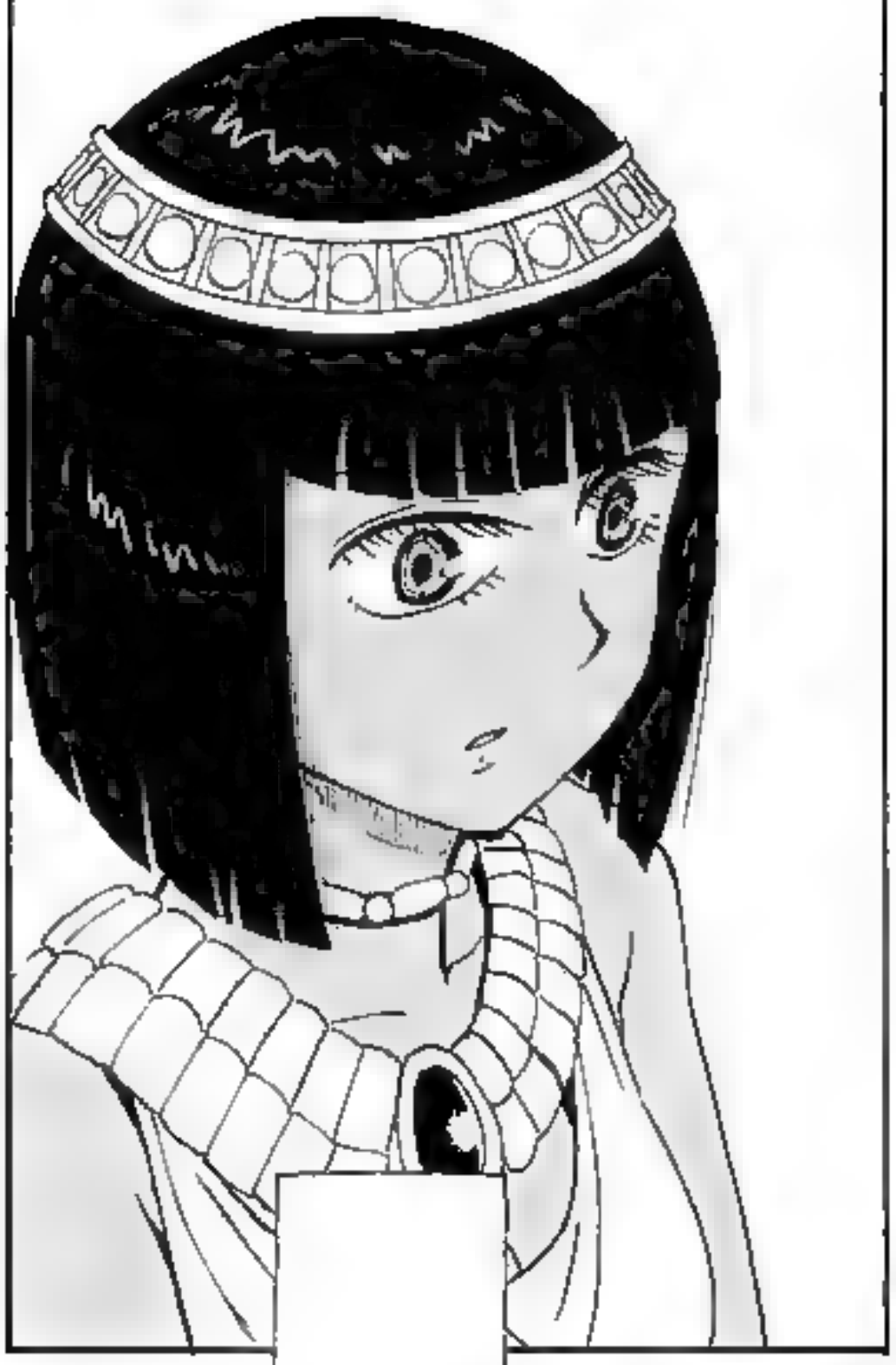
THAT'S YOUR CLIENT. THE BIG MAN WITH NARROW EYES..

MISS, THAT WOMAN NEXT TO THE LARGE MAN IS .

BEHIND US ARE THE LABORERS WE WANT YOU TO USE FOR THIS JOB.

I AM ARBOL. THIS IS MY DAUGHTER, THE SEER LOCA.

WELCOME, FOREIGN VISITORS AND CRAFTSMEN.



CHAPTER FOUR

"FLORS"

スピリットサークル
魂環

SPIRIT CIRCLE

UMI

CIRCLE 11
FLORS 2

YAWN

GRAND-PA.

GRANDPA SPHINX.

NYUM

NYUM

IF I LET PEOPLE CALL ME BY THAT NICKNAME, I'D FORGET MY OWN NAME

BUT EVERYONE IN TOWN CALLS YOU SPHINX.

I'M FLORS.

WHO ARE YOU CALLING SPHINX?

WHAT WAS YOUR CLIENT ARBOL LIKE?

WHAT HAPPENED AFTER YOU REACHED THE HARBOR?

YEAH, YEAH. I KNOW, GRANDPA SPHINX.

THAT'S NOT THE NAME THEY TOLD ME.

AND YOU'RE YOUNG.

FLORS?

I'M FLORS..

MY FATHER. THE MASTER ISN'T FEELING WELL... I'M HERE IN HIS PLACE.

OH?

HM .

REST ASSURED, HE IS QUITE SKILLED.

H-HE MAY ONLY BE REPRESENT-ING HIM, BUT HE'S OUR MOST TRUSTED AND RELIABLE APPRENTICE

NO MAT-TER.

MMMPH!

ENOUGH OF THAT!

FATHER DOESN'T HAVE ANY CHILDREN TO...

I'M ONLY THE FIRST APPRENTICE BECAUSE I'VE BEEN AROUND THE LONGEST

Y-YES.

MASTER ARBOL.

HALA-RA!!

SHOW THEM THE WAY.

ガ、は、は BWAH HAH HAH

I LIKE HIS EYEBROWS! I'M SURE HE'LL BE A GOOD WORKER.

STEP STEP
ﾃﾃ ﾃﾃ

THIS WAY.

YOU MUST BE EXHAUSTED FROM THE LONG JOURNEY. REST UP TODAY

mmmm

ARBOL'S DAUGHTER LOCA WAS AT THE HARBOR.

BOW

OH IT'S NOTH-ING...

MR. FLORS?

LIHA-NELA?

LOCA WAS A FORTUNE TELLER WHO HAD COME TO MEET HER CUSTOMER LIHANELA.

A SER-VANT?

KIRTINOS WAS TRUSTED BY HER FAMILY..

SHE HAD A SERVANT NAMED KIRTINOS.

LIHANELA WAS THE DAUGHTER OF A WEALTHY FAMILY WHO WAS ON THE BOAT WITH US.

..NO .

THEY WERE LIKE SIB-LINGS..

GRANDPA?

HUH?

OH.

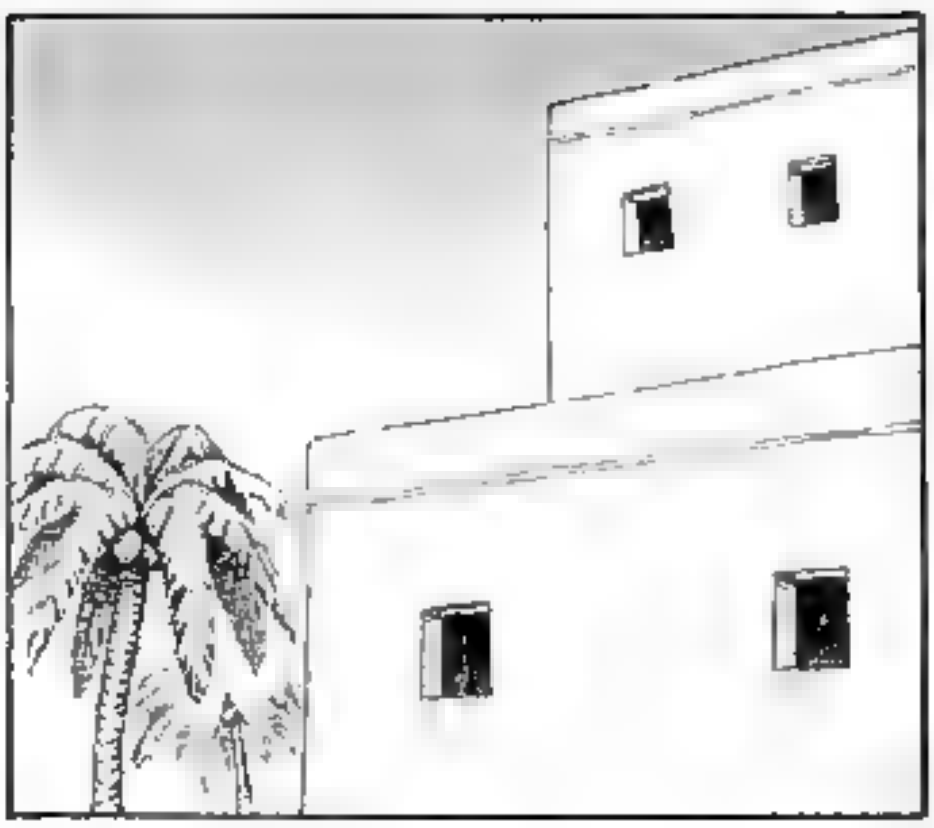
I SUP-POSE.

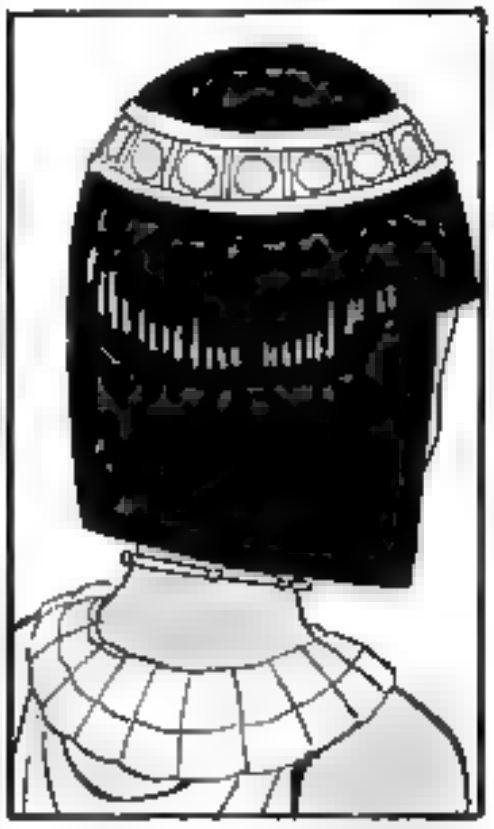
HOW-EVER

WAS SHE BEAUTI-FUL?

I WAS INTRIGUED BY ARBOL'S DAUGHTER LOCA.

I KNEW WE HAD THE SAME FIRST IMPRESSION OF THE OTHER.





HAVE YOU HEARD WHAT THE JOB IS?

YOU MEAN YOU DON'T KNOW?

MAKE YOUR-SELVES AT HOME.

WORKING IN ANOTHER COUNTRY, HUH? I'M SO NERVOUS.

IT'S TRUE.

... IS TO BUILD A SPHINX.

OUR JOB THIS TIME...

OH.

OKAY

EXPLAIN THE JOB

REPRE-SENTATIVE, IF YOU PLEASE.

AND IT'S NOTH-ING AMAZ-ING.

EVERY-ONE'S GOT IT WRONG.

WRONG?

THAT'S WHY EVERYONE CALLS YOU GRANDPA SPHINX!!

WOW!!

MY NAME IS FLORS

WE'VE GOT TWO OR THREE YEARS TO DO SOME-THING SIMILAR.

WE'RE NOT MAKING THE EXACT SAME THING.

I'VE NEVER SEEN THE REAL THING, BUT I HEAR IT'S HUGE. HOW MANY YEARS WILL THIS TAKE?!

A SPHINX? THE THING THAT PROTECTS THE GREAT KING'S TOMB?

OF COURSE THEY DO.

EVERYONE THINKS I BUILT A GIANT SPHINX.

SOMETHING SIMILAR?

THIS WAY, MR. FLORS

IS SOME-THING WRONG?

BUT ACTU-ALLY...

OH! THAT'S GOOD.

WHAT ABOUT THAT?

WELL?

GREAT LET'S GO ASK.

IT'S GONE...

HUH?

YEAH, AND IT'S CLOSE.

THIS SPOT IS GOOD

AN ANIMAL? THERE'S NOTHING THERE.

WAIT

THERE'S A STRANGE ANIMAL OVER THERE...

EAST.

SO IT FACES THE RISING SUN

WHICH DIRECTION SHOULD IT FACE?

SURE. THAT WILL DO.

BUT HE WAS ALSO A SCHOLAR.

..AT FIRST I THOUGHT HE WAS A NOUVEAU RICHE NOBLEMAN..

WHAT KIND OF GUY WAS ARBOL?

...

WE SHOULD WORSHIP THE LIGHT OF KNOWLEDGE THAT BANISHES THE DARKNESS OF IGNORANCE

YOU CAME

HEL..O

THIS WAY.

ONE DAY, I WAS SUMMONED BY ARBOL

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

KIRTI-NOS

HALARA, YOU CAN GO.

BOW

HAVE A SEAT.

BOW

YES

LADY LIHANELA IS WITH MY DAUGHTER. DON'T WORRY

ANY-WAY...

AND MY MISTRESS GAVE ME PERMISSION TO COME.

I DON'T KNOW MYSELF

I WAS JUST SUMMONED BY MASTER ARBOL.

...WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?

WHAT?

LET'S DRINK.

THE THREE OF US ARE TOGETHER AGAIN

ACCORDING TO MY DAUGHTER.

WE'VE BEEN FRIENDS SINCE BEFORE WE WERE BORN.

AH.

OF COURSE YOU DON'T UNDER-STAND.

SURELY YOU JEST.

A FOREIGN NOBLE AND A SERVANT LIKE ME?

BUT THERE'S NO WAY FOR US TO MEET EACH OTHER BEFORE OUR BIRTHS.

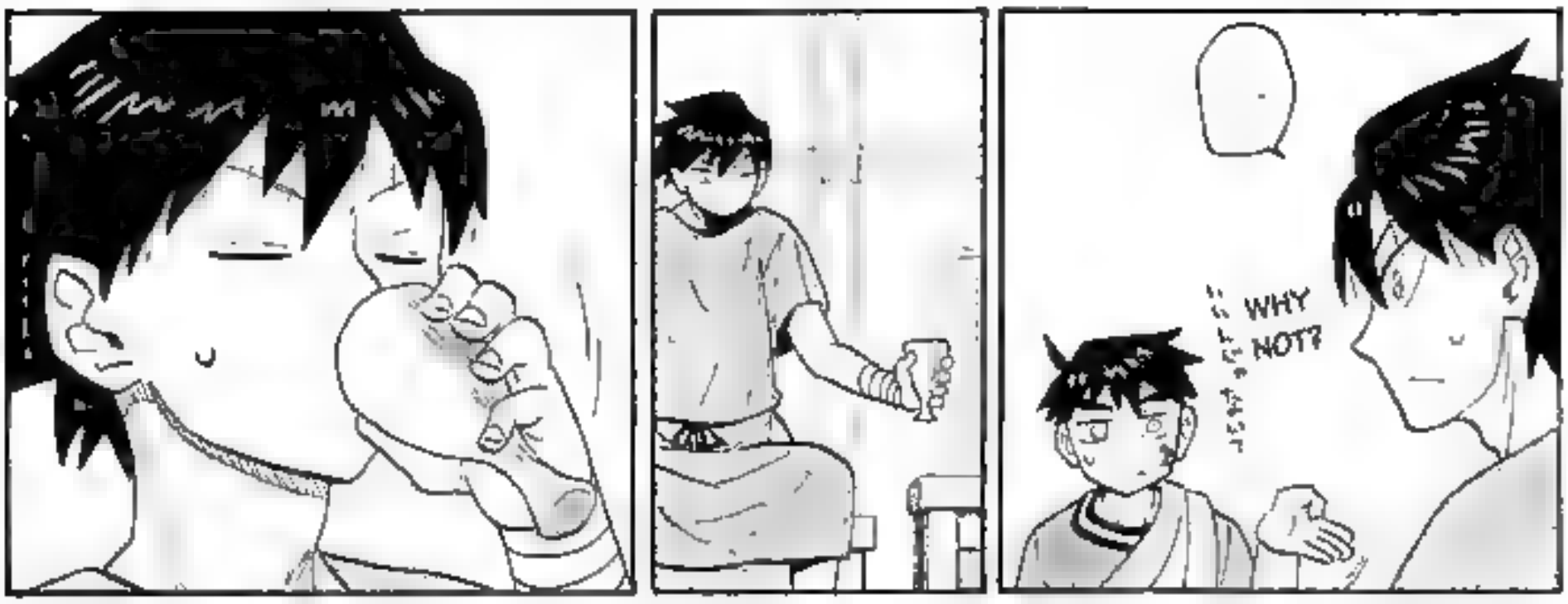
C'MON

IT'S FINE, SO HAVE A DRINK.

I DON'T REALLY GET IT EITHER.

HA HA HA.

SEEING YOUR FACES CERTAINLY MAKES ME WANT TO DRINK.


WHY NOT?

ARBOL DIDN'T CONCERN HIMSELF WITH DETAILS LIKE THAT.
THE NOBLEMAN DRANK WITH A SERVANT?

KIRTINOS LAUGHED A LOT WHEN HE DRANK.
ARBOL WAS A TALKATIVE DRUNK.
THAT WAS THE ONLY TIME WE DRANK TOGETHER, BUT I STILL REMEMBER

HEH HEH
HJH.

IT WAS DELICI-OUS.

HALA-RA.

COULD YOU LEAVE US?

HUH?

MISS LOCA.

YOU'RE IN A GOOD MOOD.

I SUP-POSE.

I WISH TO SPEAK WITH MR. FLORS.

SKUFF

ず、...

HELLO

HELLO.

ISN'T IT?

IT'S A BIRTH-MARK.

BUT THE TRUTH IS...

.YES, IT IS.

THIS?

...THE MARK ON YOUR FACE...

...BEFORE YOU WERE BORN.

...I GAVE IT TO YOU...

DID IT...

. FEEL NOSTAL-GIC?

DID YOU ENJOY DRINKING WITH MY FATHER?

I THINK THEY'RE ALL CON ARTISTS.

I'M SORRY, BUT . I DON'T BELIEVE IN FORTUNE TELLERS.

..BECAUSE OUR SOULS HAVE BEEN BOUND TOGETHER AS ENEMIES.

YOU'RE ABLE TO SAY SOMETHING SO DISRESPECTFUL TO MY FACE...

I'M DRUNK AND WANT TO GET HOME.

WHAT DID YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT?

..YOU HATED ME, DIDN'T YOU?

AT FIRST LOOK...

I'M SORRY, UM ..?

NO

SOLLS?

I WANT TO SEVER OUR CONNECTION IN THIS LIFE.

AT THIS RATE, WE WILL ONLY KILL EACH OTHER AGAIN AND SPILL A RIVER OF BLOOD.

...I NEED YOUR HELP.

WE ARE REBORN ENDLESSLY ONLY TO KILL ONE ANOTHER. TO CHANGE OUR FATE..

AND KILL EACH OTHER? ALL WE HAVE TO DO IS AVOID ONE ANOTHER...

AFTER ALL..

UM... WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

YOU CAN'T JUST START BOWING.

WE HATE EACH OTHER.

. TO KILL EACH OTHER..

BEFORE WE FIND A REASON..

ENEMIES OF THE SOJL IS JJST SOME EPIC FANTASY..

.. PLEASE EXCUSE ME.

MISS LIHANELA?

!

MR. FLORS.

SEE YOU, KIRTINOS.

...

BOW

GOOD BYE

NOTHING.

?

GOOD BYE..

STARE

..WHAT IS IT?

I FINISHED MY BUSINESS AND DID SOME SIGHTSEEING, SO WE'LL BE LEAVING FIRST

REALLY? TAKE CARE.

THANK YOU!

GOOD LUCK WITH YOUR WORK.

TUP TUP TUP

SHE'S CUTE. I WONDER IF SHE'D COME BY THE WORKSHOP BACK HOME.

WHO KNOWS.

WE HARDLY SPOKE ON THE WAY HERE.

WHY DID THE GIRL COME TO SAY GOOD-BYE?

BOW

AREN'T YOU A LITTLE *TOO* POPU-LAR?!

WHAT?! BUT I'M WORK-ING.

MISS LOCA IS CALLING FOR YOU

IF YOU COULD JOIN US.

HUH?

HALA-RA?

MR. FLORS!

WHAT NOW?

SORRY ABOUT THIS.

OKAY

GO SEE HER. WE'LL MANAGE.

RGGGH

HAVE A SEAT.

...

THE MARK ON YOUR CHEEK IS A BIRTHMARK. YOUR PARENTS BLAMED EACH OTHER FOR IT AND FOUGHT OFTEN...

AM I RIGHT?

...

. IS THIS YOUR FORTUNE TELLING?

YOU COULD HAVE EASILY RESEARCHED ALL THAT

YOU DON'T GET ALONG WITH YOUR PARENTS, BUT YOU THINK OF YOJR WORKSHOP'S MASTER AS YOJR FATHER.

AM I RIGHT AGAIN?

THIS IS MORE IMPOR-TANT.

BUT I'D LIKE TO GET BACK TO WORK.

EX-CUSE ME...

I CAN SEE MORE THAN USUAL.

I'M FEELING WELL RIGHT NOW.

...AND HELP ME FREE OUR LIVES FROM THIS FATE.

I WON'T ASK YOU AGAIN.

.TO THE STORY OF OUR SOULS...

LISTEN...

IT'S NOW OR NEVER.

WE FINALLY MET UN-ARMED

REMEMBER.

THAT'S ENOUGH--

...ARE OBLIGATED TO DO THIS.

BECAUSE YOU...

YOU STARTED ALL OF THIS.

スピリットサークル
魂環

SPIRIT CIRCLE

DAIKI
ダイキ

CIRCLE 12
FLORS 3

I AM A LITTLE CURIOUS, THOUGH.

HEY, DON'T BE SO UNCOUTH.

SO?

HOW'D YOUR MEETING WITH MISS LOCA GO?

SHE SAYS I'M THE ONE WHO STARTED THE KILLING IN A PAST LIFE.

MISS LOCA AND I HAVE BEEN ENEMIES SINCE WE WERE BORN.

SHE ACCUSED ME OF SOMETHING STRANGE...

YEAH, I DUNNO.

SHE'S A STRANGE ONE, ISN'T SHE?

R-REAL-LY?

I TOLD HER I'D HAD ENOUGH AND LEFT.

THANKS FOR YOUR WORK.

WE'LL BE PUTTING SCAF-FOLDING TOGETHER AGAIN TODAY.

YESSIR...

GOOD MORN-ING

LABOR-ERS.

AGAIN?!

MISS LOCA WANTS YOU TO COME TO HER ROOM...

MR. FLORS!!

MAYBE SHE'LL STAB YOU.

IDIOT!! THAT CAN'T BE...

SHE'S THE DAUGHTER OF OUR CLIENT MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO ..

I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU WHILE YOU'RE WORKING..

THANKS FOR COMING TO GET ME.

I'LL GO.

I DIDN'T SAIL ALL THE WAY HERE TO LISTEN TO YOUR FOOL STORIES...

I'M HERE TO WORK, YOU KNOW

I HAD SOME GOOD VISIONS.

WELCOME. I FEEL GOOD AGAIN TODAY

. I'LL HAVE MY FATHER FIRE YOU.

IF YOU WON'T LISTEN TO MY STORIES...

FRUS-TRATED?

ARE YOU FRUS-TRATED?

...!!

.. NOT TO ME.

BUT HER SERVANTS LIKED HER.

LOCA'S NOT A VERY NICE PERSON.

IT HAPPENED YEARS AGO, BUT REMEMBERING IT STILL MAKES ME MAD..

HMM.

HRM-PH..

IT DIDN'T MAKE ANY SENSE.

HOW WERE YOU CONNECTED IN PAST LIVES?

WHAT DID YOU TALK ABOUT WITH LOCA?

I KILLED LOCA UNDER ORDERS FROM MY COUNTRY'S ROYALTY.

BEFORE I WAS BORN, I WAS A WARRIOR AND SHE WAS AN APOTHECARY.

THEY SEEM TO HAVE BEEN SPIRITUALLY OR POLITICALLY OPPOSED.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE ROYAL FAMILY AND THE APOTHECARY? I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS.

WHY WOULD ROYALTY KILL AN APOTHECARY?

THAT'S WEIRD

IF I WAS ORDERED TO DO IT, I DIDN'T DESERVE THIS...

AND IN THE PROCESS, I GAVE YOU THE MARK ON YOUR CHEEK.

UH HUH.

IS THAT SO?

I INTER-FERED WITH A RITUAL SACRIFICE AND WAS KILLED BY HER.

...I WAS A SHOE-MAKER AND LOCA WAS AN ORACLE.

IN A PREVI-OUS LIFE...

AFTER THAT, THE VILLA-GERS YOU INFLUENCED BRUTALLY MURDERED ME.

NOT BAD, GRANDPA SPHINX!!

I WANTED TO PREVENT MY LOVER FROM BEING SLAIN.

AND MY NAME IS FLORS

I'M NOT SURE ABOUT THAT...

AND NEXT YOU'LL THINK YOU WANT TO LEAVE.

NOW YOU THOUGHT THAT I READ YOUR MIND

I WANT TO LEAVE— AH!!

JUST NOW, YOU THOUGHT THAT I HAVE A GRUDGE, DIDN'T YOU?

DON'T READ MY MIND!

SO IT'S A GRUDGE ON HER PART...

WE BRING UNHAPPINESS TO ONE ANOTHER.

THE PROBLEM ISN'T WHO IS RIGHT AND WHO IS WRONG.

IT'S THAT WE KEEP KILLING EACH OTHER EVERY TIME WE'RE REBORN.

I'LL CALL YOU AGAIN WHEN I'M FEELING WELL.

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR TODAY.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND, AND I DON'T CARE...

I DON'T UNDER-STAND, AND I DON'T CARE .

BJT...

THAT TWO SUCH PEOPLE EXIST, AND HOW CAN THESE TWO PEOPLE ESCAPE THEIR FATE...?

YOU CAN PRETEND IT'S JUST A FABLE OR USE IT TO PASS TIME AT NIGHT, BUT THINK ON IT.

A SCHO-LAR...

A NOBLE-MAN. A WARR-IOR.

A MER-CHANT. A SLAVE.

BUT IT WAS A LITTLE INTER-ESTING.

WHAT OTHER LIVES HAD I LIVED, AND WHAT WERE THEY LIKE?

IT DIDN'T COST ANYTHING TO FANTASIZE ABOJT THEM.

HRM... ONCE, LOCA AND I WERE LIKE FAMILY

WHAT OTHER LIVES DID SHE TELL YOU ABOUT?

...LOCA AND I BECAME ENEMIES.

BECAUSE OF AN INCIDENT I CAUSED AT THE TIME...

PERHAPS IT WAS AN EXPERIMENT,...

...OR MY AMBITION.

I WAS DOING SOME KND OF RESEARCH

I WAS A SCHOLAR STUDYING NATURE OR THE HEART

AN INCIDENT? WHAT KIND OF INCIDENT, GRANDPA SPHINX?

WHO KNOWS...? IN ANY CASE, A LOT OF PEOPLE WERE CAUGHT UP IN IT.

...CAN'T YOU GIVE ME MORE CONTEXT BEFORE YOU TELL YOUR STORY?

SINCE THEN, YOU AND I HAVE BEEN CAUGHT UP IN A CYCLE OF BLOODY BATTLES.

THAT'S WHY I WANT YOU TO HELP ME.

DID ANYTHING COME TO MIND WHILE YOU WERE LISTENING TO ME?

IT'S NOT A STORY. I JUST CAN'T SEE IT CLEARLY.

DAMN IT SHE'S ALWAYS GOING ON ABOUT SOME NON-SENSE...

NOTHING CAME TO MIND.

IN ANY CASE, I KNOW YOU STARTED EVERYTHING.

HALA-
RA.

I SEE THAT ALL THE TIME. WHAT DO YOU CALL THAT ANIMAL?

WHAT?

WHERE?

?

IT'S NOT IMPOR-TANT

NEVER MIND

WHAT?

UM...

LOOK.

RIGHT THERE

THAT WAS MY LIFE FOR YEARS.

I WENT BACK AND FORTH FROM MY ACOMMO-DATIONS, TO THE WORK SITE, AND THE PALACE.

HER CRAZY ACCUSATIONS ABOUT TAKING RESPONSIB LITY FOR HER STORIES INTERFERED WITH MY WORK.

"I DON'T REMEMBER CLEARLY, BUT SINCE YOU'RE THE CAUSE, YOU THINK OF A SOLUTION."

WHETHER OR NOT SHE KNEW OF MY IMPATIENCE, LOCA WOULD SUMMON ME SEVERAL TIMES A WEEK, SAYING .

THE SPHINX WAS TAKING A WHILE.

I STRUGGLED WITH THE CLIENT'S REQUEST TO CREATE A FACE THAT DIDN'T RESEMBLE ANYONE.

...

I PRETENDED TO THINK WITH HER WHILE PONDERING OVER THE DESIGN OF THE SPHINX'S FACE.

SEEING THE FUTURE OF MY GREATEST ENEMY WHO I NATURALLY HATE WOULD BE ALL THE MORE DIFFICULT

MY PRECONCEPTIONS, DESIRES, AND DESPAIR GET MIXED IN. I HAVE TROUBLE DISCERNING WHAT I'VE SEEN.

. .ABOUT WHAT YOU SHOULD DO OR ABOUT YOUR FATE?

LOCA COULDN'T READ HER OWN FORTUNE.

I WANT THIS TO BE A CITY OF LEARNING.

THE STATUE SYMBO-LIZES THAT.

IT'S NOT A SYMBOL OF AUTHORITY. IT'S A GOD WHO QUESTIONS HUMANITY.

SO.

WHY DID ARBOL WANT THE STATUE'S FACE TO LOOK LIKE NO ONE IN PARTICULAR?

HUH...

HE COULD'VE USED HIS OWN FACE.

HE WAS A MAN OF POWER

I'M NOT SAYING THAT TO MAKE FUN OF YOU.

I'M JUST SAYING YOU'RE NOT A SCHOLAR.

I WANT IT TO REPRESENT THE CONCLUSION AN ORDINARY MAN REACHES AFTER DEEP THOUGHT.

LEARNING IS THE PATH OF THE INTELLIGENT

FOUR YEARS AFTER WE BEGAN CONSTRUC-TION...

IT CERTAINLY LOOKS LIKE NO ONE.

...IN FACT...

なんだ なんだ WHAT IS IT?

CHATTER CHATTER

IS IT FINISHED?

. I SEE. THE FACE OF AN ANIMAL.

MASTER ARBOL..

TWITCH

BADUM BADUM BADUM

ドキドキドキドキドキドキ

IT'S A CAT.

A CAT.

SO BIG.

THE FACE OF A CAT ON THE BODY OF A LION...

HUH!

A CAT.

IT'S A CAT

BWAH

わはははは HA HA HA

SO CUTE

A CAT.

A CAT

PFFFFT!!

PFFFFT?

MR. FLORS?

MR. FLORS, WHERE DID YOU SEE THE ANIMAL YOU BASED THIS ON?

SO, WHAT'S A CAT?

ALL RIGHT!! THEY LOVE IT.

GOOD よかった!

OH. THAT'S A GOOD REAC-TION.

THEY'RE ALL CALLING IT A CAT, THOUGH.

PAT PAT

...WERE OVER-JOYED.

THE VILLA-GERS WHO CAME

IN FRONT OF THE COMPLE-TED STATUE

THAT NIGHT, A CELE-BRATION WAS HELD...

REGARDLESS OF THEIR SOCIAL STATUS, THEY ALL LOOKED AT THE SMILE THAT DAY, AND LAUGHED

ALL THE LOCALS SEEMED TO LIKE CATS.

I'LL PAY DOUBLE WHAT I PROMISED!!

FLORS!! FANTASTIC JOB!!

ALL RIGHT!

WHAT?!

...

THANK YOU...

YOU'RE GOOD AT YOUR WORK.

...GOOD JOB.

MR. FLORS

ER!

Y-YES?

THAT'S AMAZ-ING!!

YOUR SPHINX WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!!

IT'S NOT AMAZ-ING...

..IT'S NOT AMAZ-ING

OF OUR TOWN'S LEGEN-DARY CRAFTS-MAN.

I'M GLAD I CAME TO HEAR THE STORY...

WE DIDN'T KILL EACH OTHER AFTER ALL.

RIGHT.

YOU'LL SAIL BACK TO YOUR COUNTRY TOMORROW

...

..OF COURSE NOTHING HAP-PENED

SIGH..

I'M GLAD NOTHING HAP-PENED

..YOU'RE RIGHT

FOR INDULG-ING ME..

...AND CREATING A CUTE STATUE.

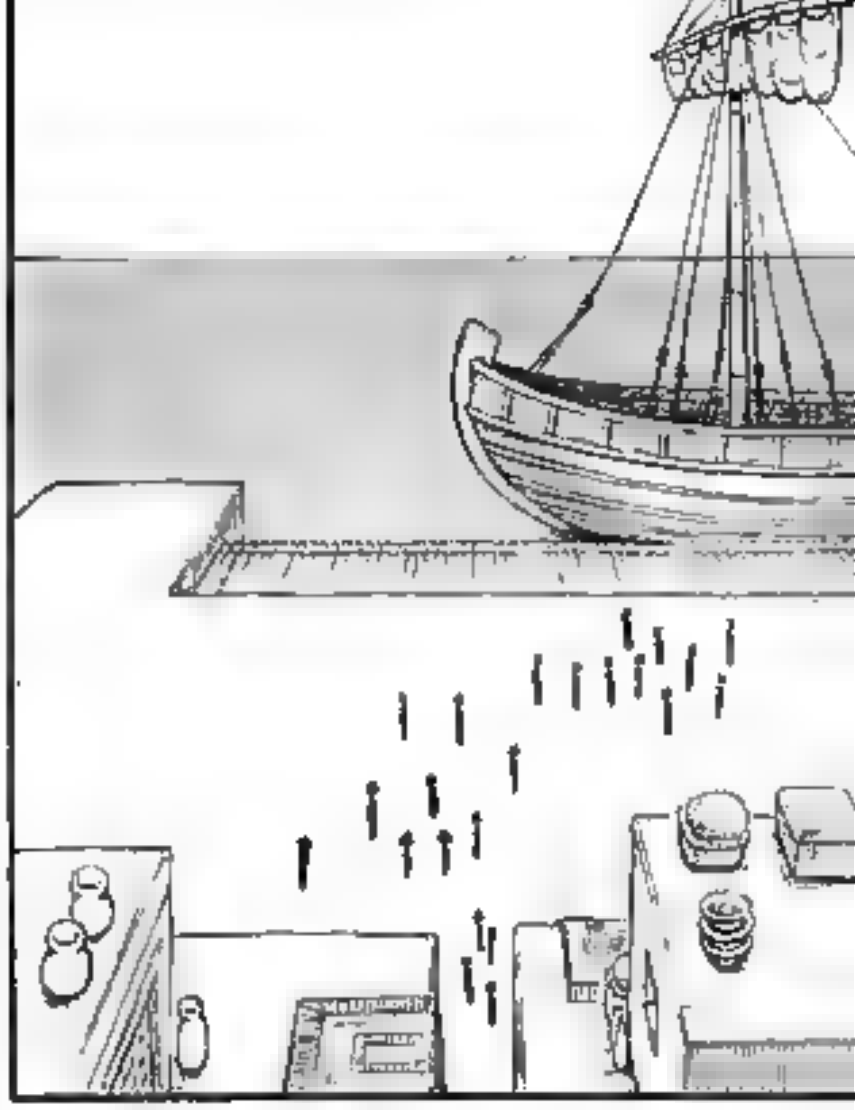
...I HATE YOU..

...BUT THANK YOU.

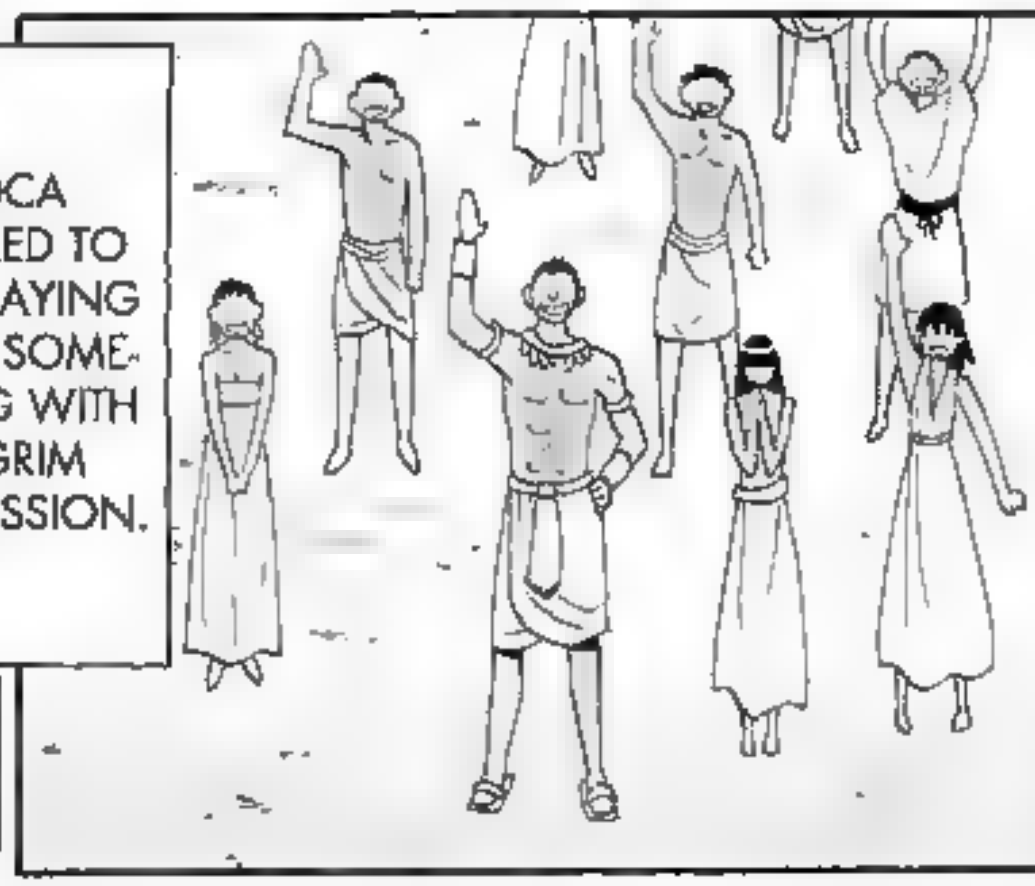
BUT I HAD FUN HEARING STORIES..

...ABOUT THE OTHER LIVES I LIVED.

...I HATE YOU, TOO.

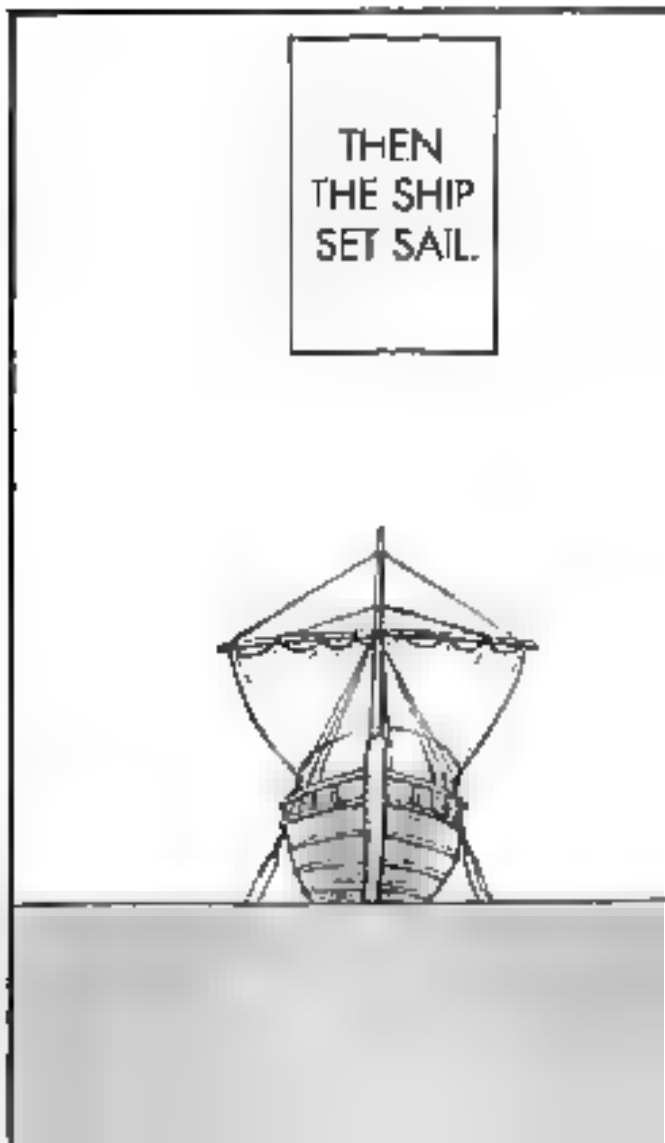


LOCA SEEMED TO BE PRAYING FOR SOMETHING WITH A GRIM EXPRESSION.



WHEN WE LEFT PORT, THE LOCALS CAME TO SEE US OFF.

THEN THE SHIP SET SAIL.



I'D LIKE TO GO BACK AND RE-CARVE IT.

REALLY?

WE CAN PROUDLY INFORM THE MASTER OF OUR RESULTS!!

TH-THE CLIENT AND THE TOWNS-FOLK LOVED IT!!

I DIDN'T LIKE HOW THE STATUE CAME OUT.

THE CAT I SAW IN THE DESERT WAS MUCH MORE REFINED...

...AND MUCH MORE BEAUTI-FUL.

WHEN WE RETURNED.

SIGH.

I WON-DER IF FATHER'S DOING WELL.

AFTER THAT, I TOOK OVER THE WORK-SHOP OF THE MAN I REGARDED AS MY OWN FATHER, AND BECAME THE NEW MASTER

I HATED LOCA.

IF LOCA HADN'T INTERFERED WITH MY WORK, I MIGHT HAVE MADE IT HOME BEFORE HE DIED

...I LEARNED THE OLD MAN HAD DIED OF ILLNESS HALF A YEAR EARLIER.

MR. FLORS.

I THOUGHT THEY WERE MOCKING ME.

MR. SPH.

MR. SPHINX.

MR. SPHINX.

MR. SPHINX.

PEOPLE BEGAN CALLING ME SPHINX THEN.

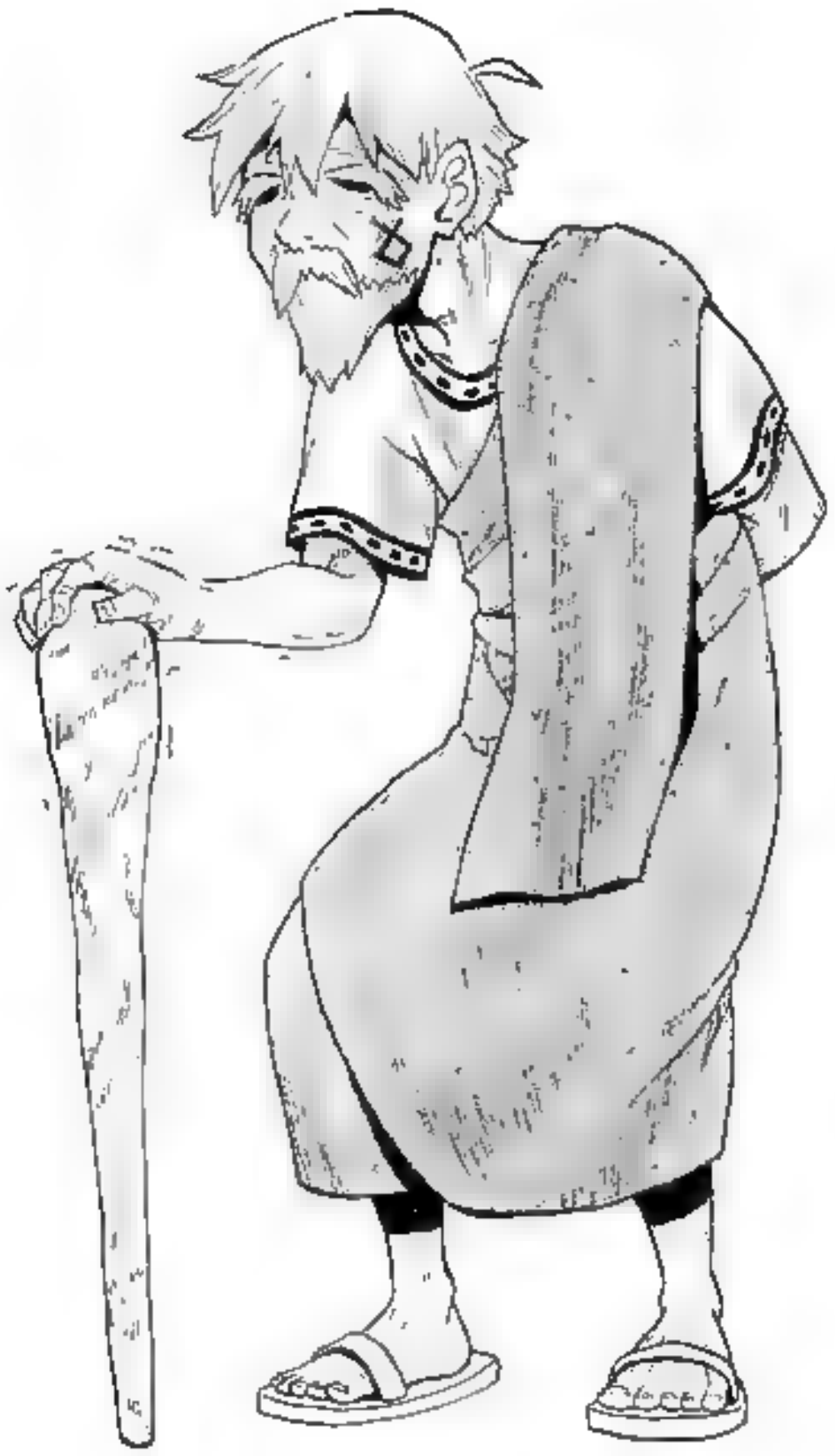
IT WAS LIHANELA.

スピリットサークル
魂環

SPIRIT CIRCLE

NONO

CIRCLE 13
FLORS 4



MR. FLORS.

LHANELA AND I MET AGAIN IN TOWN.

MY FATHER WANTS TO MEET YOU.

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

YOU'RE SKIPPING THAT PART?!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A LOT?!

...A LOT HAPPENED, AND I ENDED UP MARRYING LIHANELA.

PARENTS DECIDE MARRIAGES

LIHANELA WASN'T INTERESTED IN ANYONE ELSE.

.IT WAS NOTHING SPECIAL.

LIHANELA'S PARENTS SIMPLY LIKED MY RENOWN AS "MR. SPHINX."

SOON AFTER LIHANELA AND I MARRIED.

...THERE WAS.

THERE WAS NO DRAMA SURROUND-ING THAT?

HUH...

HE BOUGHT HIS FREEDOM WITH ONE OF ARBOL'S ORNAMENTS.

LIHANELA'S FAMILY SERVANT KIRTINOS PURCHASED HIS OWN FREEDOM.

BUT I THOUGHT

HUH?

HE EVEN PROVIDED PROOF OF TRANSFER.

FOR LIHANELA TO MARRY.

..HE WAS WAIT-ING...

..WHY DIDN'T HE BUY HIS FREEDOM IMMEDIA-TELY?

IF HE TOOK ONE OF ARBOL'S TREA-SURES THEN...

..KIRTINOS LEFT LONG BEFORE YOU, DIDN'T HE?

KIRTI-NOS!!

WHY NOT WORK AT MY WORK-SHOP?

ARE YOU HEADED SOME-WHERE?

COME TO SEE ME OFF?

HELLO, MR. FLORS.

...

KIR-TIN-OS!!

DASH

NO, THANK YOU

LOOK AFTER THE LADY.

WHAT'S LEFT OVER FROM THE TREASURE IS MY GIFT TO YOU

NO!

DON'T GO!

STAY WITH ME FOREVER, KIRTINOS!!

..TAKE CARE.

LIHA-NELA..

HE IS...

...HIS OWN MASTER NOW.

..I KNOW

MY BRIDE WEPT FOR TWO OR THREE DAYS STRAIGHT.

HOWEVER, LIHANELA NEVER SPOKE OF KIRTINOS AGAIN.

IT WAS LIHANELA AND KIRTINOS'. THE DRAMA SURROUNDING THE WEDDING WASN'T MINE.

I EVENTUALLY STOPPED SPEAKING OF HIM AS WELL.

NOT MUCH.

NOT MUCH.

HOW DID THAT MAKE YOU FEEL?

HELLO, MR. SPHINX.

OH, MR. SPHINX.

HEY!!

IT'S MR. SPHINX.

HELLO

MR. SPH...

...

I WANT TO BE AN ARTISAN LIKE HIM.

MR. SPHINX IS SO COOL.

HIS DOUR EXPRESSION MAKES HIM SEEM LIKE SUCH A SERIOUS ARTISAN!

THE FOREIGNERS LOVED IT, TOO.

I WOULD NEVER HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO RECARVE IT.

I WAS M SERABLE

NO ONE KNEW HOW THAT STATUE TURNED OJT

TERRIBLE.

...I COULD SEE ITS STUPID FACE.

WHEN CLOSED MY EYES..

. GAZE ACROSS THE OCEAN

IT'S MR. SPHINX.

HEY

HOWEVER, ALL I COULD DO WAS RUEFULLY ..

...I STARED AT THE OCEAN.

EVERY SINGLE DAY. .

YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND THAT'S HOW A GOOD CRAFTS-MAN IS.

WHY DOES MR. SPHINX ALWAYS LOOK SO ANGRY?

THE BABY SHOULD BE COMING SOON.

Y-YOUR WIFE.

HEY

MAS-TER!!

THIS CHILD IS MR. SPHINX JUNIOR.

CONGRAT-ULATIONS, MR. SPHINX!!

THAT'S GREAT, MR. SPHINX.

YOU WEREN'T VERY EXPRESSIVE WHEN WE MET, BUT YOU WERE BETTER THAN YOU ARE NOW.

CAN'T YOU BE A LITTLE FRIEND-LIER?

ARE YOU WALKING TO THE BEACH AGAIN, MR. SPHINX?

HELLO, MR. SPHINX.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

SQUISH

...DOCTOR, CAN MY WIFE'S ILL-NESS BE CURED?

...NO... YOU SHOULD LOOK TO YOUR WIFE INSTEAD OF THE OCEAN...

MR. SPHINX. YOU'RE HERE AGAIN.

YOU MUST FOLLOW IN YOUR FATHER'S FOOTSTEPS.

YOU'RE THE ONE WHO HAS TO KEEP IT TOGETHER.

MOTHER... MOTHER, HANG IN THERE.

LIHA-NELA.

FLORS.

FA-THER.

THEN YOU SHOULD BECOME "MR. LIBRARY".

...YOU NEVER LIKED BEING CALLED "MR. SPHINX," DID YOU?

YOU'RE RIGHT.

YOU'RE SICK. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT...

I WANT YOU TO ACCEPT THE COMMISSION TO BUILD THAT LIBRARY...

IT'S FINE.. I'LL BE DEAD SOON.

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, MOTHER?!

LIHA-NELA.. NO...

I KNOW .. AFTER ALL, I ALSO...

WHAT?

NO, I..

IT WAS HER.. HALARA, WAS IT?

YOU LEFT THE WOMAN YOU LOVED ACROSS THE OCEAN

I'M SORRY ...HA. YOU ENDED UP WITH ME...

YOU GO TO SEE HER EVERY DAY..

KIR..

OH! YOU CAME...

MOTHER?!

MOTHER...

YOU'RE ALWAYS LOOKING SOMEWHERE FAR AWAY

DO YOU NOT HAVE A HEART?

EVEN THOUGH YOUR WIFE DIED, YOU HAVEN'T SHED A SINGLE TEAR.

YOU DISLIKE IT WHEN PEOPLE PRAISE YOUR ACHIEVE-MENTS.

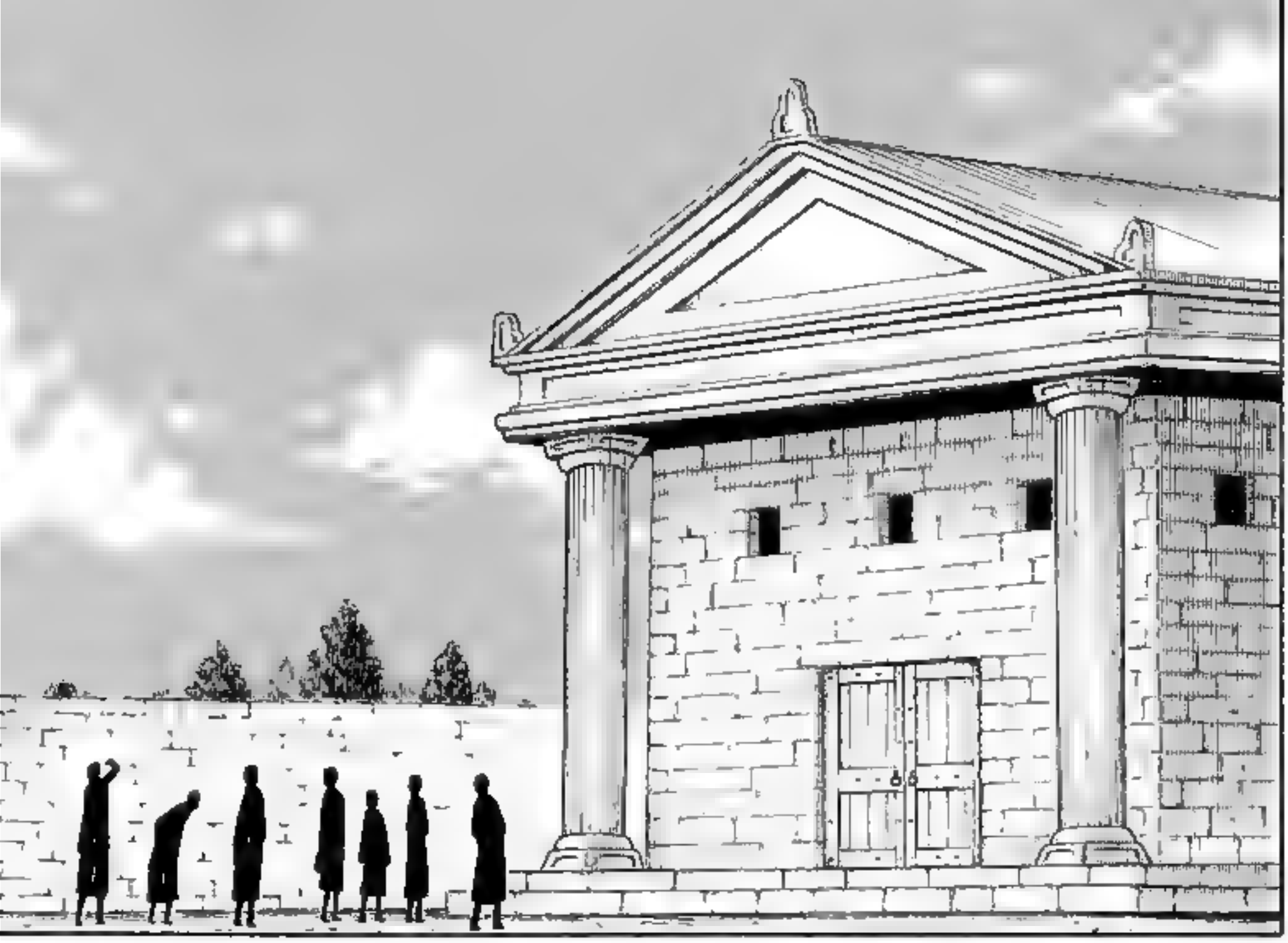
FATHER...

I'LL BECOME AN APPRENTICE AT A WORKSHOP IN ANOTHER TOWN.

GOOD-BYE...

YOU HAVE NO ANSWER... YOU REALLY DON'T HAVE ONE..

I'M LEAVING.



REAL-
LY?

IT'S A
WONDERFUL
LIBRARY
THANK YOU!!
I'M SO
GLAD YOU
ACCEPTED THIS
COMMISSION.

IT'S A
PLACE OF
KNOWLEDGE.
OF COURSE
IT'S HOLY.
IT'S
LIKE A
TEMPLE.
WHAT A
MAGNI-
FICENT
LIBRARY!!
...

WHAT A PERFECT NAME!!

DID YOU KNOW? THE SPHINX IS THE GOD OF KNOWLEDGE!!

...

I KNEW YOU COULD DO IT, MR. SPHINX!!

YES.

IT'S TIME.

...I'M RETIR-ING.

THE APPREN-TICES CAN HAVE THE WORK-SHOP

WHAT?! BUT YOUR SON HASN'T RETURNED YET.

YES ...?

OH! I KNEW IT.

ARE YOU MR. FLORS?

YOU

IS MISS LIHA-NELA DOING WELL?

OH.. YOU'RE ALIVE...

KIRTI-NOS?!

IT'S BEEN A WHILE.

YOU'VE AGED

WHAT?

...I SEE..

NO.. SHE PASSED AWAY DUE TO ILLNESS A WHILE BACK...

WOULD YOU LIKE TO VISIT HER GRAVE?

I BEG YOUR PAR-DON.

TRUE.. YOU'RE RIGHT.

HMPH

YOU SHOULDN'T BE THANK-ING ME

SHE WAS MY WIFE

THANK YOU.

IT'S A SPLENDID GRAVE.

AFTER A FEW YEARS, I WENT INTO A FIGHT HUNG OVER, LOST AN ARM, AND RETIRED

I BECAME A MILITARY INSTRUCTOR AFTER THAT

I FOUGHT IN THE COLISEUM.

WHAT DID YOU DO AFTER LEAVING TOWN?

WITH MR. ARBOL

GOOD-BYE.

SEE YOU IN THE NEXT LIFE.

I'D BETTER GET GOING. I JUST CAME TO STOP BY.

REALLY? TAKE CARE.

PFFFT

ゾッ

HEE HEE
HEE HEE...
WHEEZE...

M-MY STOMACH HURTS

WAS IT THAT FUNNY?

GWAH

HA

HA

HA

HA

I-IN THE NEXT LIFE.

GOOD—

GOOD-BYE.

SEE YOU IN THE NEXT LIFE AS WELL,

...LIHA-NELA.

..HOW MANY YEARS HAS IT BEEN SINCE I LAUGHED LIKE THAT?

AH. .

AUUUH

AU-
GHHH.

AH..

YOU..

ONLY
YOU...

HN-
GH.

SNFF.

I'M
SORRY
..

I'M
SORRY,
LIHA-
NELA.

. CALLED
ME BY MY
NAME...

...THIS TIME I'LL MAKE YOU HAPPY...

IF...

IF THERE TRULY IS...

...A NEXT LIFE...

HOW FAR DID I GET...?

UM...

OH... WHAT ...?

WHY AM I LAUGHING...

AH... BUT WHY...

AND CRYING NOW...?

SEE YOU LATER, GRANDPA.

NEVER MIND. I'D BETTER BE GOING.

HEY, GRANDPA SPHINX.

HELLO, MR. SPHINX.

I'VE GONE SENILE.

HELLO...

MR. LIBRARY.

...

...

OH...

I'M DYING...

...

...WHAT ...?

IF SOMEONE DOESN'T NOTICE SOON, I'LL BOTHER THE NEIGHBORS...

IT'S BEEN HOT LATELY...

WAS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED...?

...LOCA... WE DIDN'T KILL EACH OTHER.

...

IT'S SO DARK...

SOME-ONE... SOME-ONE...

NOT LIKE THIS...

NO...

...NGH...

...MY NAME...

SOME-ONE SAY...

GOOD MORNING.

OKAY. MASTER FUUTA.

...WELCOME BACK.

CIRCLE 13/FIN